SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 SERVING NILES, BUCHANAN AND EDWARDSBURG

Niles Daily Star

leaderpub.com • $1.00 Established 1886

Stay Safe

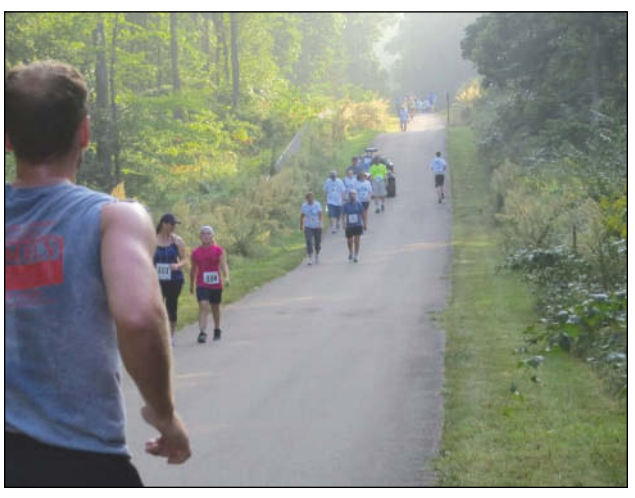
Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
919 Port Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221
www.bcsheriff.org

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

McCoy Creek Trail Extension groundbreaking set for Monday



FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — The City of Buchanan has announced plans to host a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off the construction of the McCoy Creek Trail Extension Project.

The city is inviting the community to attend the McCoy Creek Trail Extension Groundbreaking at 10 a.m. Monday, March 10 at River St. Joe Brewery, 15475 Walton Rd., Buchanan.

The existing McCoy Creek Trail is an approximately four-mile improved shared use path that runs along McCoy Creek, through prairie, downtown Buchanan and E.B. Clark Woods. It includes historical markers and natural elements that tell the history of Buchanan and the region.

The McCoy Creek Trail Extension Project will extend the existing McCoy Creek Trail a half-mile along Schirmer Parkway, down River Street across River Street Bridge and into Buchanan Township. This extension would not only provide recreational opportunities, but also much needed alternative transportation options for residents and visitors to the region.

"We encourage all to attend this celebration of a monumental community achievement," said Mayor Mark Weedon. "So many people have played a part in McCoy Creek Trail over the decades, from the original visionaries to the coalition of residents, business, and local, state and federal partners who have made this trail extension a reality. There is no doubt in my mind we will continue to extend our beloved McCoy Creek Trail that goes right through beautiful Historic Downtown Buchanan to make regional and even intrastate connections."

The project team has invited local, state, and federal representatives and partners to attend the celebration of this exciting milestone for Buchanan and the Region. The event will feature a groundbreaking ceremony with brief remarks by dignitaries followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Annual Restaurant Week returns to Niles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A popular weeklong celebration has returned this week to eateries throughout the city of Niles.

The annual Niles Restaurant Week presented by Corewell Health returns with a delicious lineup from March 3 through March 9. This weeklong dining event, organized by the Greater Niles Chamber of Commerce and Niles Main Street, aims to help stimulate tourism and patronage at local restaurants in the Niles area.

"Niles area restaurants are fast becoming destination attractions for foodies all over the region," said Greater Niles Chamber Executive Director Ryan Boeskool. "We hope that neighboring communities will come to Niles and find out what they've been missing."

Foodies can expect flavorful food and prices that aim to delight the palate and wallet thanks to specials and prix-fixe menus. This year's lineup of restaurants includes: Iron Shoe Distillery, Prime Table Restaurant, Front Street Pizza Pub, Wings, Etc., 2&M Coffeehouse and Wine Bar, Veni's Sweet Shop and more. Specific details on each establishment's offerings can be found at eatdrinkniles.com.=

Iron Shoe Distillery owner Howard Tuthill emphasized the impact the event has on local restaurants.

"Restaurant Week is a wonderful opportunity to support local restaurants and take a day off from cooking," he said. "And while you're out exploring downtown Niles, be sure to check out all of the new developments around town, as there are many new businesses who have moved in. The energy here is exciting and Restaurant Week is the perfect occasion to see what's new."

Area residents receive jail sentences

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Two area residents were given jail sentences Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse Monday.

Samantha Williams, 39, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of fentanyl and was sentenced to nine months in jail with credit for 13 days served and $198 in fines and costs. She also was sentenced on a misdemeanor theft case and was given credit for time served and ordered to pay $845 in fines, costs and restitution.

Williams

The incident occurred Dec. 4 in Niles.

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said Williams has substance abuse issue, noting that her record includes convictions for drugs and theft where she stole items to support her drug habit. She said Williams has received medically assisted treatment in the jail and will go to counseling when she's released.

Williams acknowledged she has struggled with drugs over the years. "I know what I need to do to stay clean, I have to do it," she said.

"A lifestyle change is not easy," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said. "People want to quit but there's no straight path. I hope you will use this time in jail."

Samuel Michael Friant, 27, of South Bend, pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to five months in jail and $198 on the weapon charge. The weapon, a

Friant

See JAIL, Page A8

READY FOR ACTION

Tin Shop Theatre to present 'The Clock Struck One'

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — The Tin Shop Theatre is ready to perform its spring production.

The historic theater, located at 108 E. Roe St., will be performing "The Clock Struck One" by Craig Sodaro. Sponsored by Edward Jones and Buchanan-Galien Lions Club, performances will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 8 and 15; 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 14; 4 p.m. Sunday, March 9 and 16. Tickets are available online at tinshopthetre.org and reservations can also be made at the box office at (269) 695-6464.

Directed by Alice Kring, the story centers around estranged sisters Connie and Regan, who reunite for a weekend that takes a mysterious turn when they find one of the owners of Hickory Dickory Inn murdered.

The play takes place inside the cozy, rustic inn, with many of the rustic inn's decorations –– trophy mounts and other outdoors memorabilia – being part of Kring's family collection. She believes the show will be a great way for audience members to bring in the spring season.

"I wanted to do a murder mystery," Kring said. "This one isn't as deep as an Agatha Christie show. It's got funnier tones – I like comedy and a little bit of mystery."

The cast includes several local thespians:

April Jonatzke as Regan Tasker. This will be Jonatzke's eighth Tin Shop Theatre production. Born and raised in Florida, April Jonatzke moved to Buchanan in 2011 and is thrilled to be

part of her eighth production at the Tin Shop.

"Regan is very spiritual and one with the spirits," Jonatzke said.

She is also set to direct her second Murder Mystery Dinner Show in partnership with the Tin Shop in September 2025.

"It's a family here," Jonatzke said. "Once you start, you just stick with it. "It's a lot of fun."

Michele McCubbins as Connie Girard. After years of cheering on family and friends from the audience at the Tin Shop and other local stages, McCubbins is excited to make her stage debut in The Clock Struck One.

"Alice was kind enough to take a chance on me," McCubbins said. "There's wonderful camaraderie and fun but also learning about acting and what it takes, not just memorizing your lines and even that felt like it was going to be a Herculean effort. It's so much more about who else is on the stage with you. It's been a wonderful experience."

Patricia "Patti" Baltazar as Essie Mason. Patti is a semi-retired teach-er who will be performing her 15th show at The Tin Shop. She especially enjoys performing in musicals and comedies. Patti has performed since high school, as a Taylor Center "ChoralAire", as a member of The University of Michigan's 'aMaizin' Blues, and with the Niles-based Tyler Blue Notes.

"I'm usually playing a goofy or sweet kind of person and this is a role where I've been able to be kind of cranky. It's not generally

See THEATRE, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Tin Shop Theatre will be performing "The Clock Struck One" by Craig Sodaro March 7-9 and March 14-16. The cast, from left: Patricia "Patti" Baltazar, April Jonatzke, Michele McCubbins, Dave Perez, Jennie Brackett, Phil Brackett, Evan Kring, Geneva Tabor.

6 54708 09550 1

OBITUARIES

Benjamin Blackiston
Paul Merrill
Sonie Paustian
Gene Earl Spitzer
Tracee Laurana Cook
Teresa Gilliam
Larry Starrett
Patricia Frantz
Jack Turner
Harriet Kathryn Buchanan

A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"What is the best local source for flowers for my garden this spring?"

A2

Girls basketball districts Complete game sends Eddies to finals; Buchanan falls to Berrien Springs in thriller

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

How come Frankly only publishes negative things about Trump? He is trying to make things better.

It was embarrassing to see Trump,Vance and a rightwing reporter mocking Zelensky's clothing. I guess it's ok for Elon to wear his MAGA cap in the Oval Office.

When the Russian government says the US has aligned itself with the "vision of Russia" you know we are doing something wrong. Putin has violated every treaty he has ever signed.

Knock on wood... I can't believe the lack of snow we had in February. It's been a while since we got such a break from heavy shoveling.

It's sad to see Shelton's gone. I had shopped there for many years. Who is stepping up to take its place?

If Musk wants to really do something good maybe he should dig into healthcare and pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) costs. It's been widely known the PBMs middlemen have been greatly profiting from our wallets.

Cutting the VA is bad. The last thing our veterans need is to have a reduction in the benefits they receive and the staff who helps them with those benefits.

What is the best local source for flowers for my garden this spring?

Biden had four years to fix many problems. He was mostly a bust. Started things he couldn't finish.

Checks and Balances is our system of government that prevents dictators from doing whatever they want. Congress makes the rules and allocates the overall spend. It has to be this way. The Veto keeps Congress in check. The Supreme Court interprets the challenges. It's a good system when we respect it.

The democrats embarrassed themselves with their childish behavior Tuesday night. But, Trump also provided lots of false information. We need to be able to trust his words, but he needs to speak truthfully.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	30% Chance of Rain	Mostly Cloudy
39° 30°	45° 35°	55° 41°	64° 43°	60° 31°	44° 34°

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
SPOTLIGHT: ELLA CHAMPION

COMMUNITY REPORT

Ella Champion was born in Niles on May 11, 1872.

After graduating from Niles High School, Champion began teaching in the local school system. She also attended summer sessions at the University of Chicago and took correspondence courses to receive her bachelor's degree in education.

Champion spent her entire professional career as a teacher and administrator in the Niles Community Schools. She taught classes, including art appreciation, and also served as the elementary supervisor for many years.

Champion was a talented artist, a skill she utilized both in and outside of the classroom. She worked primarily in watercolors and is well known for her hand painted greeting cards, usually featuring a bird or other nature scene.

Ella Champion was also active in the community, serving as a member of several local clubs and organizations, including the Niles Business and Professional Women's Club and the board of the Niles Public Library.

She died on December 14, 1968 and is buried at the local Silverbrook Cemetery.

Learn more about Champion and other prominent Niles women at the Niles History Center, 508 E. Main St., open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NILES HISTORY CENTER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
TOP: Ella Champion with her class, 1900.
RIGHT: Blue bird card painted by Ella Champion.

THE CHIEFTAIN HEART

HELPFUL
ENGAGED
ACHIEVEMENT
RESPONSIBILITY
TEAMWORK

DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOLS
BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
(269) 782-4400
DOWAGIACSCHOOLS.ORG

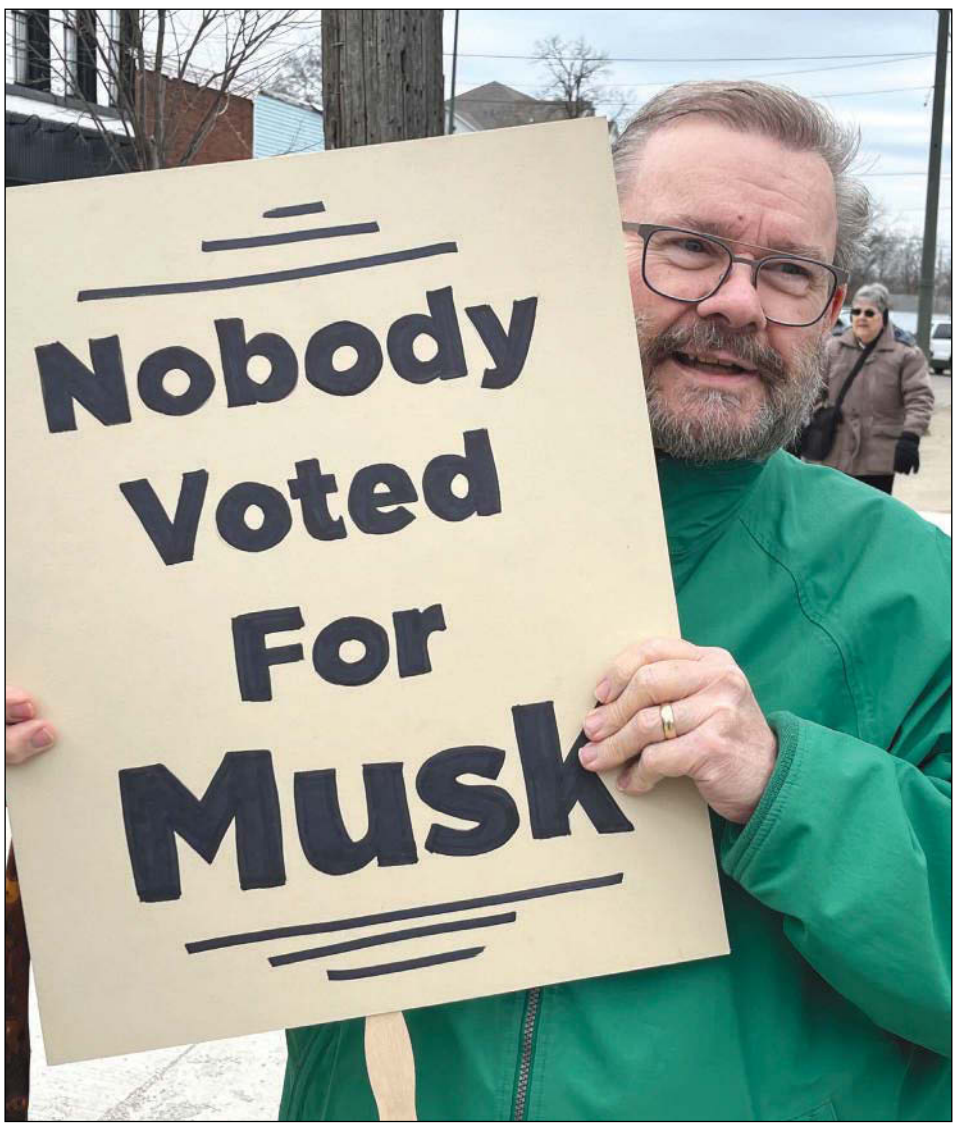
MAKE CASSOPOLIS FAMILY CLINIC NETWORK
YOUR HEALTHCARE HOME.
Cassopolis Family Clinic Network
Niles Community Health Center
Our Family. Caring For Yours.
www.cassfamilyclinic.org
Visit us on social media and on our website for updates and more information
Cassopolis Family Clinic Network is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Get Fit, Stay Fit
The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.
• Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge
• H.I.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga
Cass County COA Enhancing Life
(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org
facebook.com/CassCOA
Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Protesters rally in Niles against possible Medicaid cuts

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com



NILES — More than 90 protesters gathered in front of Representative Tim Walberg's office in Niles Monday afternoon to voice their concerns over potential cuts to Medicaid.

The Republican-led Congress is considering significant cuts to Medicaid, the government health insurance program for low-income households.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted last week to approve a budget framework that could lead to more than $800 billion in cuts to Medicaid, an amount protesters said would reward the wealthy and hurt the common people. While the measure does not detail specific cuts, it calls for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce – which oversees Medicaid – to reduce spending by at least $880 billion over the next ten years.

A letter written by Jim Pedersen on behalf of concerned Congressional District 5 Constituents was sent to Walberg's office Monday.

"The recent House Republican budget resolution bill calls for some $880 billion in unspecified cuts from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which considers Medicare and Medicaid," Pedersen wrote. Your House Committee on Education and Workforce is tasked with cutting the second largest amount, $330 billion, putting Pell Grants, student loans, OSHA and skilled workforce training in jeopardy. Congressman, this level of cutting is not going to happen without real pain to thousands of your constituents, and will not be offset by the proposed tax cuts."

County commissioners approve policy revisions

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County Commissioners were urged Thursday to follow the example of the federal government and engage in cost cutting measures.

St. Joseph resident Shawn Hill made the request during public comments at Thursday's Board of Commissioners meeting. He specifically took time to thank new County Commissioner Sharon Tyler for her recent vote against renewing a contract with a Lansing political consultant.

Tyler represents the City of Niles on the county board. She was the only commissioner to vote against the renewal of the county's contract with Midwest Strategies. The contract was renewed for the 2025 year at an estimated cost of $49,000. Midwest Strategies advocates for the county in Lansing.

"I was here a couple of weeks ago and I will give Sharon credit where credit's due," Hill said. "I felt like she was looking out for our taxpayer money in voting against the proposal to keep the consulting group, I feel like she was looking out for our taxpayer money."

"I get that it's for grants, but I would think there's someone in the county administrator's office who could find out about grants and write them," he added. "I know it's about having influence in Lansing, but we have influence through our politicians. I think it's a waste of money."

Hill asked county commissioners to follow the example of the federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and see where they can cut costs. "When we see the stuff coming out with DOGE at the federal government, I think that's something that Berrien County needs to actually consider too. A lot of money is out there being spent on crazy things."

Thursday's county board meeting didn't feature any cost cutting but did feature the start of action on reviewing board policies.

County Commissioner Robert Harrison said the personnel and human services committee which he chairs is going through board policies to review and update them. A number were acted on at Thursday's meeting and more will be coming before the full board in coming weeks and months, he said.

The policy revisions approved Thursday included ones for employee exit interviews, daily time records, pay periods and holidays. In addition, a new policy is being established to provide a master fee schedule for county services.

Most of the policies being amended and updated had not been looked at since the early 2000s.

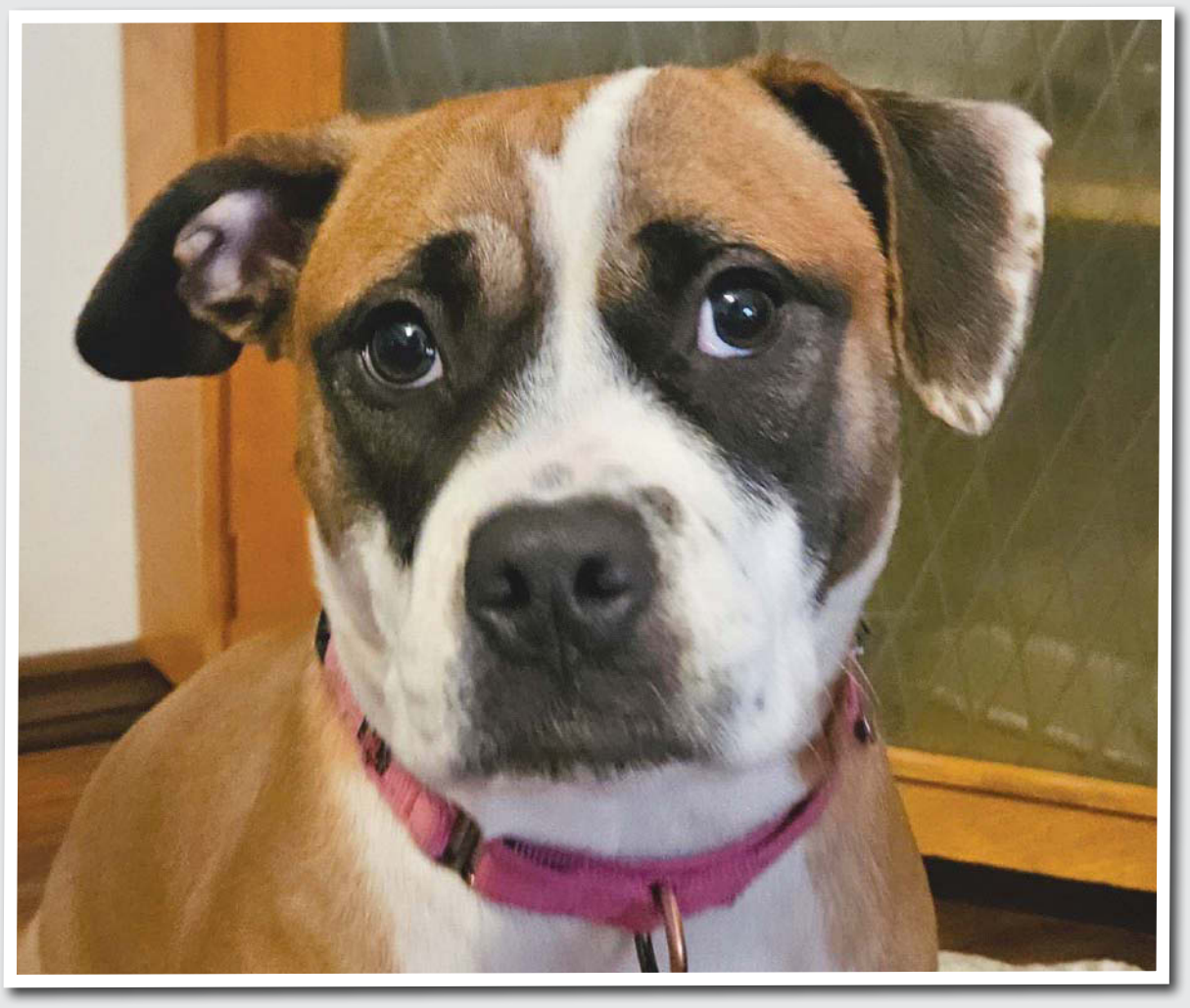
County Commissioner Jim Curran reported on the morning's administration committee meeting. He said he has asked Berrien County Trial Court Chief Judge Mabel Mayfield and Trial Court Administrator Carrie Smietanka-Haney to provide an update to the full board on the trial court's new Jworks software.

The switch to the new software system took place last spring and has been problematic since then. Concerns have included difficulties of the Jworks system interfacing with other software systems used by the County Prosecutor's Office, the Berrien County Jail and other entities.

Lorie Bowers, Agent
68935 Gateway Dr.
PO Box 623
Edwardsburg, MI
49112-0623
Bus: 269-663-7015
www.LorieBowers.com

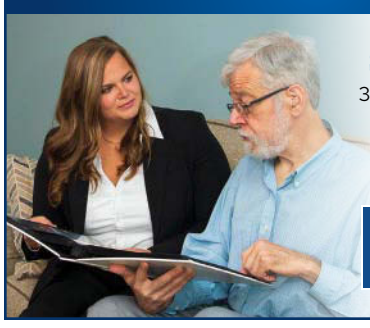
Family is Why WE DO IT ALL
Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.
Office Hours:
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday by Appointment
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE®
StateFarm.com® • State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

PET OF THE WEEK



Nova Belle is a one year-old Boxer-Beagle mix who will make a fun companion. She enjoys being close to you as well as having quiet cage time with her comfies and Nylabone. She gets along with dogs and is friendly with cats. Still very young, Nova Belle will benefit from continued leash training as you both walk toward springtime. She is spayed and current on shots. Contact Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan at (269) 934-SPAY or infoanimalaidswmi@gmail.com.

Celebrate a life



SWEM CHAPEL
301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

J&H OIL CO.

Choose The Leader In:
- Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
- Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
- Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
- Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
- Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso

Contract/Fixed Price Options
- Volume Discounts
- Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
- Premium Diesel Fuel
- Hoses & Filters in stock

QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS
J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes

PACIFIC PRIDE · air1 · Phillips 66 Lubricants · Mobil · Marathon · Citgo

J&H OIL CO.
Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep Funding Children's Health

Dear Editor:

I spent forty-six years in the field of education, as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, a special education director, and a superintendent. Throughout all those years, from inner city Detroit to southwest Michigan, public health departments and personnel were essential partners for school districts and buildings. It's not rocket science to understand that healthy students have better attendance and can learn better than kids who are sick.

When he was medical director of the Berrien County Health Department, Dr. Rick Johansen got all the county's superintendents to commit that they would not enroll unvaccinated children in their school districts. Our Republican state legislators and our congressman supported our position. Such a commitment to children seems doubtful in the present political climate, with vaccine deniers in high government positions.

Seventy percent of Michigan's public health dollars come from federal funding. Right now, the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) is taking an approach to budget cuts that will threaten the health of Michigan children. If you care about children's health and well-being, contact your federal and state legislators. Tell them to take a stand for our children.

Congressman Tim Walberg: (202) 225-6276

Senator Elissa Slotkin: (202) 224-4822

Senator Gary Peters: (202) 224-6221

State Senator Jonathan Lindsey: (517) 373-5543

State Representative Brad Paquette: (517) 373-1796

John H. Jarpe
Niles

NEWS

Niles man gets prison time for stealing vehicle

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Niles man already in prison was given another prison term Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Isaiah Evert Jeffries, 29, of Niles, pleaded guilty to attempted receiving, concealing or possession of a stolen vehicle and was sentenced to 17 months to two and a half years in prison with credit for 120 days already served. He must pay $1,548 in fines and costs and $155.10 in restitution.

Jeffries

He was sentenced last December in Niles Berrien County Trial Court for third-degree fleeing and eluding police and received a term of 12 months to 5 years in prison with credit for 102 days served. That incident occurred July 30 in Niles.

In the Cass County case, the incident occurred Jan. 10, 2020 at Gumwood and Redfield Roads in Milton Township. Jeffries had previously been scheduled to be sentenced in 2023 but failed to appear for his sentencing.

Statements made in court Friday indicated that police were called about a single vehicle accident with a car off the road. Jeffries left the scene on foot but returned while police were on the scene. Police later learned that Jeffries had been involved in a side swipe accident on U.S. 12 near Bell Road and the vehicle was reported stolen out of South Bend.

Cass County Assistant Prosecutor Nicholas Lebbin noted that his office had initially agreed to make no sentencing recommendation but has withdrawn that after Jeffries failed to appear and committed other crimes. Friday, he said he agreed with defense attorney Robert Drake to give Jeffries a sentence of time served.

Drake pointed out that Jeffries had already served 120 days on this case and the guidelines call for a sentence of between zero and nine months.

"Obviously looking into the future, if he does not put all this behind him, an avalanche of cases will put his guideline range higher," he said. "The fact hie is already serving a prison sentence makes this recommendation appropriate."

Jeffries appeared via Zoom from prison in Jackson, Michigan and also spoke before the sentencing. "I'm trying to straighten up my life and make better choices," he said. "I have kids at home. I want to get back to work and provide for kids and be a positive role model for my children."

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman noted that Jeffries has already been sentenced to prison previously and has had other criminal charges including for failure to appear in Berrien County and St. Joseph County, Indiana.

Judge Herman pointed out that Jeffries had failed to live up to his end of the bargain when was initially offered a plea agreement with no additional jail time. "These guidelines in my opinion aren't appropriate in your case when I look at your conduct," he said.

"You have to learn that if you're going to be involved in the system, you have to cooperate and you have to appear," he added. "You have to stand up and face the consequences. It's the only way to move forward."

He said that he believed it to be reasonable and proportionate to depart upward from the sentencing guidelines based on Jeffries' conduct.

"You are a young man, you have children, you've got a long life ahead of you," he said. "You can be a role model for kids but when I look at what you've done the last five years, you've been anything but a role model for your kids."

"You have been nothing but disrespectful and uncooperative, you continue to commit crimes in the community," he added. "The guidelines in my opinion are way, way below what you deserve. I hope you learn from this and not commit any more crimes. But if you do, the consequences will be worse."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Annette Hover Weston.

SMC grad enjoys 'talking' for a living

COMMUNITY REPORT

NORTH CAROLINA — Annette Hover Weston had wanted to be a journalist since she was 11. She remains one today, though made her way through print and news broadcasting coast to coast to reach her specialized perch — talk radio.

Her future destination was prophesied in high school in Van Buren County, where she graduated with Lawrence's Class of 1987.

As the introduction to her Facebook page notes, "I talk for a living. Literally all of my high school teachers would have said I'd end up here" on public radio in North Carolina.

"After my mom died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) last year," Weston said, "we were poking through old photos and mementos. The one commonality in every old report card was, 'Talks too much in class.'

"I really wanted to be a journalist. The first time I recall thinking that would be me when I grew up, I was watching the Carter-Reagan election returns on television – so I would have been 11.

"To bring things full circle, I had the immense pleasure of interviewing Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter when they were working at the Jimmy Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity in 2005. That project came to pass as the City of Benton Harbor worked to recover from the riot in 2003."

Both her parents, Janice and Gordon Hover, attended SMC and "actually got close and fell in love carpooling to and from Lawrence and Dowagiac."

Weston has two younger siblings, a brother who is a veteran and an engineer for the federal government. Her sister owns a restaurant in Schoolcraft, Bud's Bar.

"Amazing food and atmosphere," she said. "They brought a shuttered local legend back to life."

Weston, who has four adult children and two grandchildren, didn't consider other options besides SMC.

"I was working 2 ½ jobs to pay for my classes — the half was freelance reporting for the Courier-Leader newspaper in Paw Paw. (SMC) was closer to home and work than any other."

She did not commute, but rented a tiny studio apartment in Dowagiac, which she shared with a roommate and her toilet-trained cat.

"I absolutely can't remember exactly where the apartment was, but it was next to a small gas station that was in pretty rough shape even then. My roommate and I shared a pull-out couch bed."

Her first fulltime news job was features editor for the Southeast

See TALKING, Page A7

Niles Daily Star

ADMINISTRATIVE
PUBLISHER
Rich Cains
(219) 455-2349
rich.cains@leaderpub.com

ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Rhonda Rauen
rhonda.rauen@leaderpub.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
Amy Glover
(269)687-7717
amy.glover@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
(269) 362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

DESIGN CENTER MANAGER
Allison Dale
allison.dale@leaderpub.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Joshua Turnock
Caitlin Schlemmer

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
(269) 591-6105

Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, **25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120**. Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.

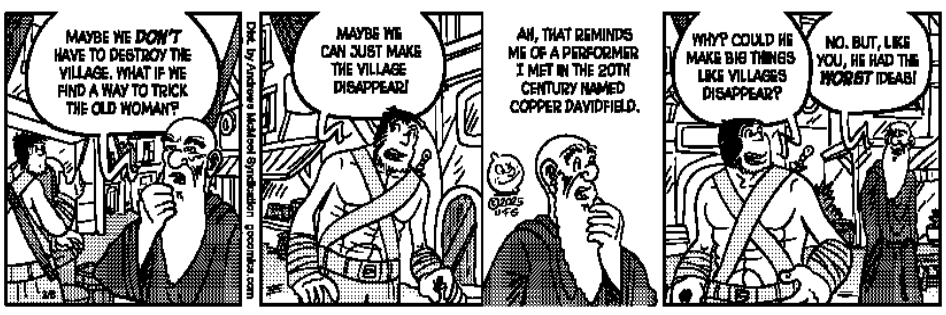
Established in 1886 • USPS 390-620 •www.leaderpub.com

COMICS & PUZZLES

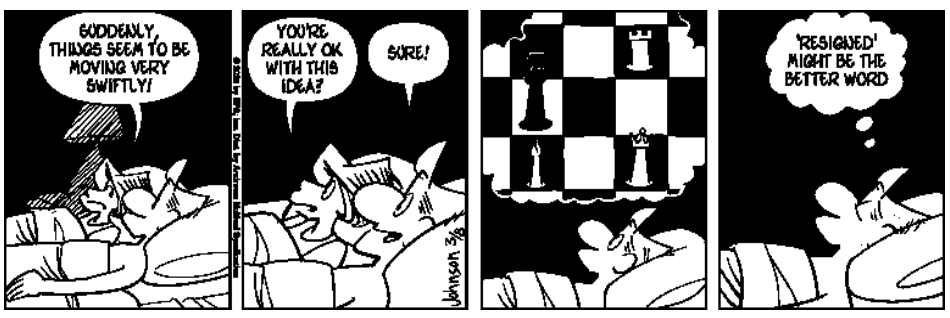
ADAM

WOW. THOSE PAINT FUMES!
YEP.
BUT IT'S REALLY GONNA BRIGHTEN UP THE KITCHEN AND HALLWAY.
WE SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH A REALLY BRIGHT PINK/PURPLE.
FUCHSIA!
GESUNDHEIT?
SORRY. MUST BE THE FUMES.

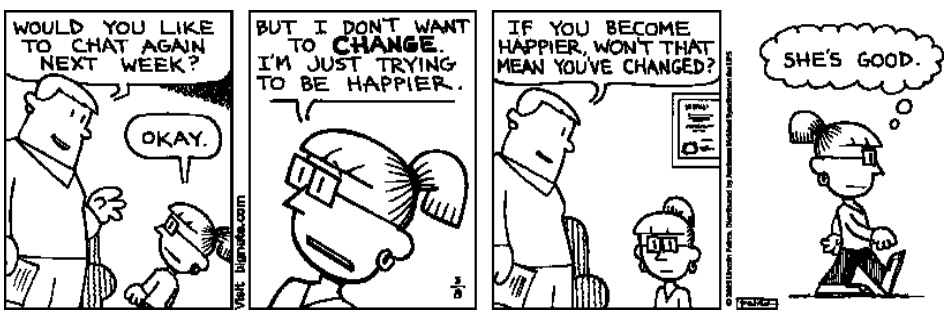
ALLEY OOP


MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO DESTROY THE VILLAGE. WHAT IF WE FIND A WAY TO TRICK THE OLD WOMAN?
MAYBE WE CAN JUST MAKE THE VILLAGE DISAPPEAR!
AH, THAT REMINDS ME OF A PERFORMER I MET IN THE 20TH CENTURY NAMED COPPER DAVIDFIELD.
WHY? COULD HE MAKE BIG THINGS LIKE VILLAGES DISAPPEAR?
NO. BUT, LIKE YOU, HE HAD THE WORST IDEAS!

ARLO & JANIS



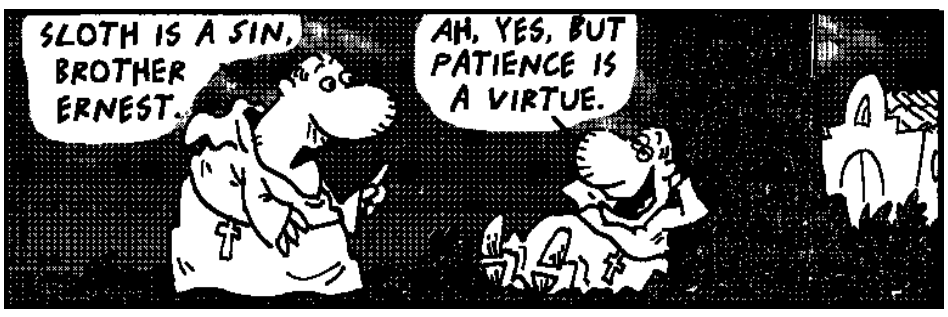
BIG NATE


WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHAT AGAIN NEXT WEEK?
OKAY.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE. I'M JUST TRYING TO BE HAPPIER.
IF YOU BECOME HAPPIER, WON'T THAT MEAN YOU'VE CHANGED?
SHE'S GOOD.

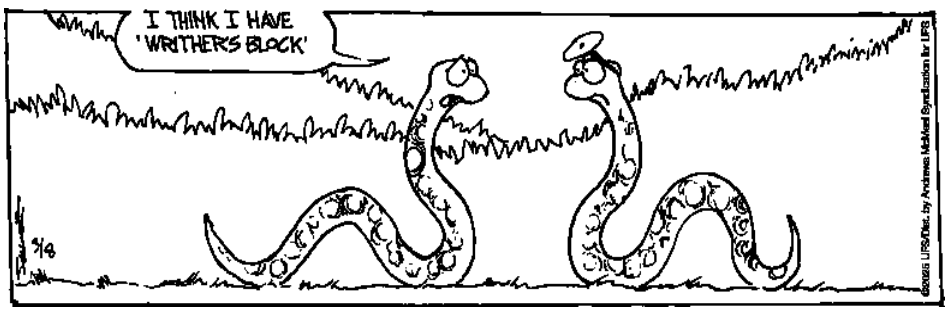
BORN LOSER

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT TO ADJUST THE CLOCKS FOR DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME.
JUST DON'T DO WHAT YOU DID LAST YEAR, SETTING THE CLOCK BACK INSTEAD OF AHEAD, SO YOU WERE TWO HOURS LATE FOR WORK!
I DID THAT INTENTIONALLY!

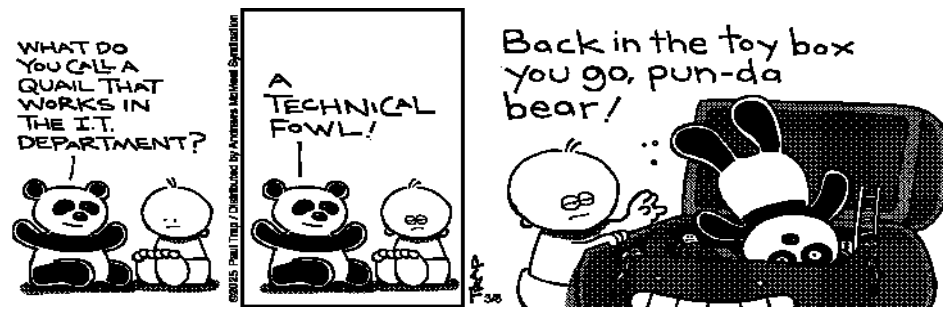
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY



NEVER WORRY ABOUT POWER OUTAGES AGAIN.
POWERPROTECT
Standby Generators
BRIGGS&STRATTON ENERGY SOLUTIONS
Get a Standard Warranty of 7 YEARS $849 Value
Proudly Engineered & Assembled in the USA¹
Call 1-866-373-0174
¹Engineered and assembled in the USA of domestic and foreign components.

SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

2			3	4				8
				5	8	6	7	
		5		7	2			
						3	5	
4								9
	2	3						
			8	2		1		
	5	6	4	1				
3				6	9			7

MODERATELY CONFUSED

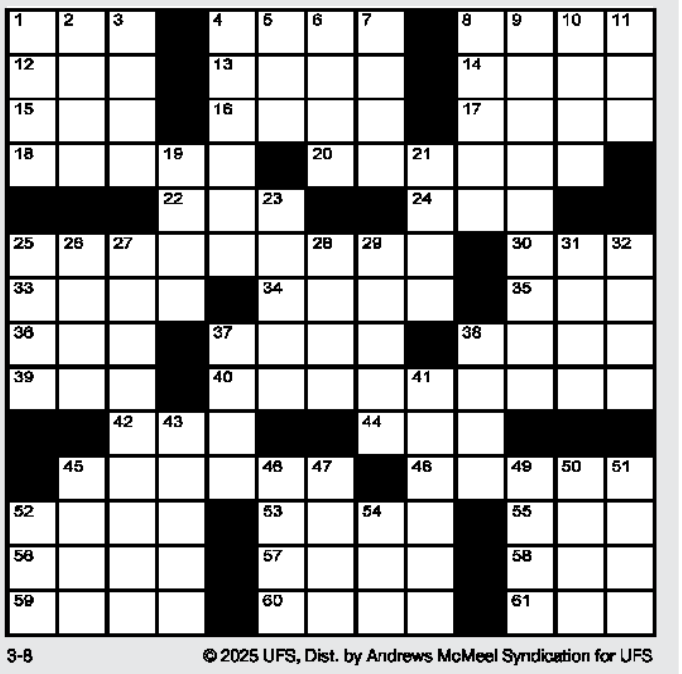
REALITY CHECK

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Blubber
4 Length measures
8 Food fish
12 "The — of Innocence"
13 — breve
14 Slouchy purse style
15 So-so grade
16 Stand for a coffin
17 Burden
18 Fermented dairy drink
20 Root veggie
22 Clear
24 Poet's "always"
25 Constable
30 Band blaster
33 OT prophet
34 Chilly
35 Feather scarf
36 Perceived
37 Achy
38 Family group
39 Round body
40 Common
42 "Born in the —"
44 — ideal
45 Makes more beautiful
48 — salts
52 Bit of pond scum
53 Make
55 The night before
56 Stink
57 "On the double!"
58 Zip
59 N.Y. players
60 Bastes
61 Banned bug spray

DOWN
1 Bag
2 Pointed arch
3 Complaint
4 Textile
5 Actor — Wallach
6 Energy type (Abbr.)
7 Skater — Lipinski
8 Seaside
9 Worthy of respect
10 Border on
11 — and don'ts
19 Eye part
21 Split
23 Furnishings
25 El —, Texas
26 Actor — Sharif
27 Like some movies (Hyph.)
28 Additional
29 Aspirin alternative
31 Complain
32 Struggle for air
37 Box
38 Hoof-on-road sound
41 Emissaries
43 Steeps
45 Toward shelter
46 Loch — monster
47 Fill
49 Transmit
50 Old Roman poet
51 Tuna — sandwich
52 Branch
54 Uncooked

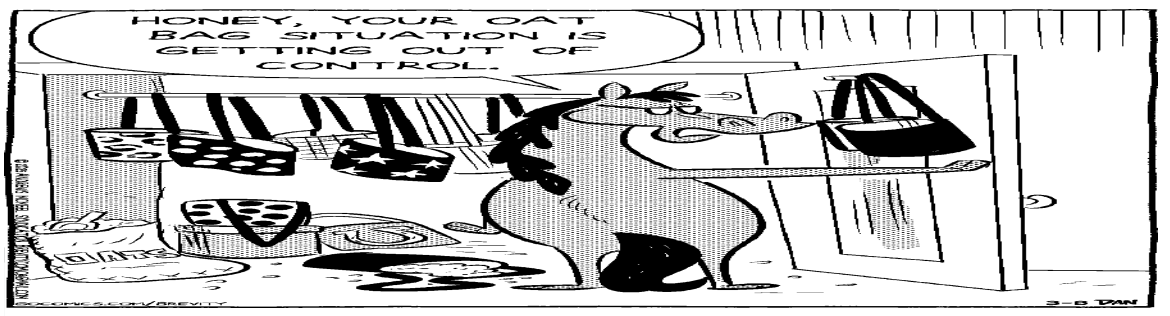
ANSWER ON PAGE 6



3-8

© 2025 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

JENNY IS JUST A FRIEND. A NEW ONE AT THAT.
LEE IS... LEE IS ALSO A FRIEND, BUT ONE I HAVE A CRUSH ON AND OCCASIONALLY HOLD HANDS WITH.
LISTEN, I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! I'M TOO YOUNG!
MY BEST FRIEND, THE CASANOVA.

DEATH NOTICES

Benjamin Blackiston, 81, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Friday, February 28, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Services can be found on www.AllredFuneralHome.com

Paul Merrill, 77, of South Bend passed away Friday, February 28, 2025 at Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Sonie Paustian, 76, of Eau Claire, passed away on Sunday, March 02, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Bowerman Funeral Home in Eau Claire. Services will be in July. www.BowermanFuneral.com

Gene Earl Spitzer, 91, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on March 3rd, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to and provided by Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

Tracee Laurana Cook

Tracee Laurana Cook, age 48 years of Niles, Michigan; mother, daughter, and devoted nurse died at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at home, with her family gathered around her bedside, following a months-long battle against pancreatic cancer, which she tenaciously fought until her final breath. Her family is grateful for the wonderful and passionate care provided by her co-workers at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Indiana; and the kind and compassionate care provided by the staff of Caring Circle Hospice at Home. They are also grateful for the many, many visitors during Tracee's final weeks.

She was born on May 26, 1976 in Niles, Michigan to Gary E. and Leslie L. (Steiner) Cook, and graduated from Niles High School. She continued her education at Southwestern Michigan College, earning an Associates degree, and becoming a Registered Nurse. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, graduating at the top of her class at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB).

Tracee began her career in nursing at the former Lakeland Hospital - Niles (now Corewell Health Lakeland Hospitals Niles) before moving to Memorial Hospital - Beacon Health System, South Bend, Indiana where she was also employed by Fresenius Kidney Care. She was currently employed at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center where she was twice a recipient of the DAISY Foundation Award®, a special honor given to extraordinary nurses for the compassionate contributions they make every day going above and beyond expectations in science and sensitivity. She recently received a Healthcare Professional Hero Reward from Homes for Heros®.

In her youth, Tracee was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Niles, and attended Saturday night events at Five Pines Ministries near Berrien Center, Michigan. When not on-duty at the hospital, she enjoyed being at home, watching documentaries - especially True Crime stories, snuggling with her pet cat, "Waffles," and feeding the squirrels, including "Mr. Chubbs" who ate from her hand. But her greatest joy was her daughter, Payton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leslie Cook who died in 1994, and Gary Cook who died in 2009.

The surviving family includes her daughter, Payton L. Yarbrough of Niles, who is a nursing student at Southwestern Michigan College, following her mother's lead. Also surviving are Payton's grandparents, Sue and Greg Burns of Niles; several aunts, uncles, and cousins; and a wonderful circle of great co-workers and friends.

Services for Tracee Cook will be on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1446 East Main Street in Niles with Pastor Jim Wing officiating. A time of sharing memories and fellowship will follow. Arrangements were completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Memories and condolences may be left at:

www.halbritterwickens.com

Forty-eight years feels far too short, but Tracee used those years well, having the self-discipline to complete her RN and BSN so that she might be the best nurse to care for her patients and combining self-discipline, patience, and unconditional love to raise her daughter - all great successes.

Teresa Gilliam

December 6, 1962 - February 28, 2025

Teresa Annette "TT" Gilliam, 62, of Cassopolis, died suddenly of natural causes in her home Friday, February 28, 2025

Her life began December 6, 1962 in Niles, Michigan born to Leon and Lillie Gilliam.

TT was one of a kind. She said it like it was and didn't sugar coat anything. She cherished her family and the children in her community. She was front and center at all of the basketball games. All the kids knew she had candy for them. She coached volleyball, basketball, and Little League. She always kept busy, whether it was mowing, leaf blowing, or shoveling snow. TT was easy to talk to and was very reliable. No one knew her true age because she said she was in her twenties.

She was unapologetically TT.

TT will be greatly missed by family and friends. She leaves to mourn her passing and continue her legacy her beloved husband, Ricky Evans; daughter, Breana (Sean) Bowsher; son,

Cliff (Heather) Hawkins; grandchildren, Ryley, Devin, Nola, Ryan; sisters, Sonya Dungey,

Tanya (John) McKnight, brothers, Richard (Milana Bass) Lee, Leon (Jennifer) Gilliam,

Robert (Peggy) Gilliam; nieces and nephews, Nikki, Adrian, Al, Deon, Philana, Tyler, Taylor, Ashley, Bobby, Adryanna, LaMarr, Shanice, George, Lamar, Thomas, and Eric; several Godchildren; aunt, Jane (Leddrew) Smith; uncle, Donald Gillam; and host of great nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Natalie Davis; and great nephew, Alphonzo Lee, Jr.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 12:00 noon until time of service at 1:00 pm in Ross Beatty High School, 22721 Diamond Cove Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

The family prefers contributions in memory of TT be made to West Woods of Niles, 1211 Stateline Road, Niles, Michigan 49120.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com

Larry Starrett

August 11, 1946 - March 1, 2025

Larry Eugene Starrett, 78, formerly of Dowagiac, passed away after a long illness on Saturday, March 1, 2025 in Glasgow, KY.

The family will receive guests from 11am until the Celebration of Life Service at 1:00 P.M., Thursday, March 6th, at Clark Chapel, 405 Center St., Dowagiac, with Brother Steve Wilson of Spiritual Paradise Church of God of the Mountain Assembly in Glasgow, Kentucky, officiating. Burial to follow at Riverside Cemetery in Dowagiac. Memorial contributions may be given to VFW Post 1855, Dowagiac. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.clarkch.com.

Larry was born August 11, 1946 in Dowagiac, MI to Alvia "Mac" Hobart Starrett and Iola June Phillips Starrett. He was ordained a minister in his late teens and went on to serve as an Army Medic. On July 21, 2012 he married Brenda Joan Francis. Larry spent his life devoted as an evangelist and minister including, at his church in Kalamazoo-Pentecostal Revival Center.

He will be missed by his 4 daughters- Stephanie Ann (Kevin) Sommer, Rachel (Chad) McEwen, Stacy Lynn (Jason) Dark and Tina Kay (Michael) Burdick; 3 sons- Mark Steven (Angie) Starrett , Shawn Lee (Lisa) Starrett and Bruce Lee Starrett; his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his sisters- Sharon Litton and Joyce Mortimore. He was preceded in death by his wife- Brenda Starrett on May 5, 2021; his parents-Mac and Iola Starrett and his brother-Mack Vernon Starrett.

Larry will be remembered as an outstanding man, his beautiful faith in the Lord and his many talents including, the ability to play several instruments-his favorites being the piano and guitar.

Patricia Frantz

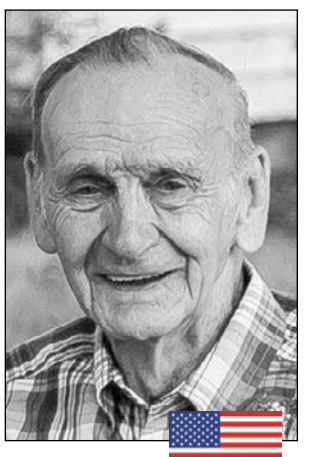
June 2, 1941 - March 3, 2025

Patricia L. Frantz, 83, of Dowagiac, passed away early Monday morning, March 3, 2025, at Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac.

She was born on June 2, 1941, in Zeeland, MI, the only child to the late Preston and Elta (Ploeg) Elenbaas. Pat was a 1959 graduate of Dowagiac Union High School. She was employed by Contech (currently SPX Corp), for many years until her retirement.

Surviving are her daughter - Kelly Frantz; two grandchildren - Melissa (Phil) Miles and Michael (Brooklynn) O'Konski; great-grandchildren - Kaydence, Riley, and Hunter.

Honoring Pat's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no public visitation or service. Arrangements have been entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. MI. Please visit Pat's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to her family at www.clarkch.com.



Jack Turner

February 24, 1933 - February 27, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Jack Edward Turner, who left us peacefully on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at home in the comfort of his family's presence.

His life began February 24, 1933 in Montpelier, Ohio. He just celebrated his 92nd birthday. He was one of fourteen children born to Burl and Lena Turner.

Jack was a beloved husband, loving father, and a playful grandfather and great-grandfather. He lived a long life, full of love and laughter. His presence will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Growing up in a large family, Jack developed a strong sense of family and togetherness. He honorably served in the United States Navy, during the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953. Upon returning home, he worked as a foreman in a plastic factory. In his spare time, Jack enjoyed roller skating at the local rink, where his skill and grace—whether moving forward, backward, or sideways—earned him admiration from all around. The rink became a place of lasting importance, as it was there that he captured the heart of Rita Snyder. Sparks flew, and they were married on July 16, 1960—this summer would have marked their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Jack and Rita moved to Bryan, Ohio where he continued to work as a foreman. They had three children—Jacqueline, Patrick, and Bradley. Over the years, their journey took them to several locations throughout Ohio before they settled in Niles. Jack

See OBITUARIES, Page A7

Public Notice
State-owned oil and gas rights to be offered for lease auction

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will offer, at an online bid public auction, approximately 3,700 acres of state-owned oil and gas lease rights throughout **Cass, Lake, Mecosta, Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford counties.** More detailed information regarding location of the nominated parcels is available at *www.michigan.gov/minerals, under Minerals map, select View the minerals management map*.

Bidder registration will open April 1 at Minerals (mineralauction.info). Bids may be submitted by individuals of legal age, a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity qualified to do business in Michigan.

Bidders not on the authorized bidder list will be required to submit a $5,000 security deposit to register. The security deposit must be submitted by ACH bank transfer or wire transfer at least 48 hours prior to the auction start time. The security deposit will be returned to the registered bidder after all successful bids are paid in full.

Prior to the day of the auction, prospective bidders can contact Kim Venne at VenneK@Michigan.gov to confirm they are on the authorized bidder list. (In order to be placed on the authorized bidder list, the individual must have been a successful bidder at a previous state of Michigan oil and gas lease auction; not have an outstanding balance owed; and not be on the DNR hold action list.)

A preview auction catalog will be available in April showing the legal description of the lands proposed to be offered and parcel classification. A DNR-approved auction catalog will be available after April 10 at Michigan.gov/Minerals select "Oil and Gas," or by contacting DNR-LeaseManagement@Michigan.gov (subject line should be: AUCTION).

Written comments from interested parties relative to the classification of any description must be received by the DNR Minerals Management Section by April 8. Final approval of proposed classification will be set at the sole discretion of the DNR.

Offering of lease rights will begin Thursday, May 1, at 9:00 a.m. at a minimum of $10 per acre and will continue until 1:00 pm. The successful bidders must pay the total bonus bid and a minimum of one year's rental by electronic fund transfer no later than 4 p.m., May 2.

SEMCO ENERGY ASKS CUSTOMERS TO KEEP METERS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE

During the winter, here are a few ways to help protect gas meter equipment and gas appliances to avoid a potentially hazardous situation or service disruption:

- **Clean and repair leaky seams in your gutters and down spouts to prevent melting snow and ice from building up on the gas meter or pressure regulator.**
- **Never allow snow to cover your natural gas meter or its pressure regulator or block your appliance exhaust vents.**
- **Please use caution when shoveling snow, plowing or snow blowing to avoid piling snow against the natural gas meter, regulator or appliance vents.**
- **Clear a path to the meter free from snow and ice for easy access.**
- **Remove soft snow build-up gently, using only a broom or your hand rather than a shovel that could damage the meter.**
- **Do not try to remove ice or frozen snow from the natural gas meter pressure regulator or piping. If you find your meter or pressure regulator covered in ice or frozen snow, do not attempt to remove the ice or use de-icer.**
Contact SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company, toll free, at 1 800 624 2019.

SEMCOENERGY GAS COMPANY

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

S	O	B	■	F	E	E	T	■	S	H	A	D
A	G	E	■	A	L	L	A	■	H	O	B	O
C	E	E	■	B	I	E	R	■	O	N	U	S
K	E	F	I	R	■	C	A	R	R	O	T	■
■	■	■	R	I	D	■	■	E	E	R	■	■
P	O	L	I	C	E	M	A	N	■	A	M	P
A	M	O	S	■	C	O	L	D	■	B	O	A
S	A	W	■	S	O	R	E	■	C	L	A	N
O	R	B	■	P	R	E	V	A	L	E	N	T
■	■	U	S	A	■	■	E	G	O	■	■	■
■	A	D	O	R	N	S	■	E	P	S	O	M
A	L	G	A	■	E	A	R	N	■	E	V	E
R	E	E	K	■	S	T	A	T	■	N	I	L
M	E	T	S	■	S	E	W	S	■	D	D	T

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

2	7	1	3	4	6	5	9	8
9	3	4	1	5	8	6	7	2
6	8	5	9	7	2	4	3	1
1	9	7	2	8	4	3	5	6
4	6	8	7	3	5	2	1	9
5	2	3	6	9	1	7	8	4
7	4	9	8	2	3	1	6	5
8	5	6	4	1	7	9	2	3
3	1	2	5	6	9	8	4	7

TALKING

Continued from page A4

Georgian, a weekly newspaper in St. Mary's, Ga. After a year or so she was introduced to radio, WKBX FM, in neighboring Kingsland, Ga., as a deejay in music radio (adult contemporary).

Weston took nearly 10 years off from fulltime work after she had children, though in 1991 she covered high school sports as a freelancer in Beaufort, S.C. The publisher of the Lowcountry Ledger was Bill Rausch, former press secretary for New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

"I had done freelance writing and weekend on-air work for the Kalamazoo Gazette, the Herald Palladium in Benton Harbor-St. Joseph and COSY (98.3 at the time) in South Haven for a few years while my children were little.

Daycare isn't an option on a radio salary," she said.

Eventually a reporter job opened at another Midwest Broadcasting station, WSJM in Benton Harbor.

"I moved into that role a few weeks after 9/11," she said. "My youngest kiddo had just entered kindergarten and that historic event convinced me that I needed to re-enter the news world. Just over a year later I was promoted to News Director. During the 2008 recession the position was eliminated, so I figured why not check out Central Oregon?"

She covered the building of SMC's first residence hall

Weston helped launch a brand-new news station in Bend, Ore., as program director.

"Family concerns brought me back to Michigan about a year later, and I was an agribusiness reporter in Lansing for the Michigan Farm Radio Network for two years before jumping at the chance to help build another new station from the ground up, Michiana News Channel in South Bend."

She remembers covering the story of SMC building its first residence hall, Keith H. McKenzie Hall, named for the longtime Board of Trustees vice chairman, in 2009.

"Casey Hendrickson, myself in the news booth and the legendary sports god Craig Williams made up the MNC (95.3) morning crew for a time."

Radio "has sent me to a variety of places," she said. "Central Oregon was the longest distance, and it is absolutely beautiful. I was news director for a heritage (three-letter call sign, WMT) station in Cedar Rapids/Iowa City; morning anchor/reporter for a statewide radio news bureau in Minneapolis; and for a locally-owned cluster in Mankato, Minn., KTOE."

From Oregon and Minnesota to North Carolina

Of her time in the Minnesota River Valley, which made national news last summer for flooding, Weston said, "KTOE was a stellar organization. So much so that I left a much larger market to work there. It was still locally owned, and John Linder was passionate about local news. He died in 2017 and the passion wilted like a flower on the vine. I was there for three years, from 2016-2019, and after the combination of the new management structure and the birth of my first grandchild, it was clear I need to follow my own personal and professional passion, and that led me to North Carolina."

Her personal bests in Minnesota winters were weathering -27 degrees and -68 windchill.

She met Gus, Hope and Gwen Walz a few times while covering Tim's campaign for governor of Minnesota. "Just a lovely family," she said during his vice presidential nomination during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. "I would definitely see Tim as America's dad."

She worked for three years as the digital content manager for a local TV station.

> "I think what we are able to do in terms of coverage is both more informative and entertaining than people would hear on the news otherwise. We focus on things that impact people more directly, and less on car crashes, police chases and the like."
>
> — **Annette Hover Weston**

"There are some real horror stories involved with moderating social media comments for a news organization amid the politics and pandemic that were present between 2019-2022," she said.

Weston began her current position as news director of the local National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate Public Radio East (WTEB) not quite two years ago.

"My grandchildren are the light in my days; moving south to watch them grow and learn was one of the best decisions I've made. Grayson is 5 and Scarlett is 2."

Hurricanes in coastal North Carolina

Weston arrived in eastern North Carolina about six months after Hurricane Florence, which "was devastating to the region. Some may remember the videos of people rescued from the roofs of their homes by emergency responders in New Bern."

"Since I've been here there have been two that left behind a lot of damage — Dorian in 2019 and Isaias in 2020. One thing to understand about hurricanes in this region is they are often preceded by rounds of tornados and waterspouts, which can cause as much or more damage and loss of life as the hurricane itself."

Maysville, where she lives, "is a very small town still working to claw its way back from the devastation of Hurricane Florence. However, I live rural and Jacksonville, N.C., is nearly as close to my home. It's the home of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. You've probably been bombarded by the toxic water lawsuit commercials. This is a very military-focused area, with Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point also nearby. I work in New Bern, the birthplace of Pepsi" at a drugstore in 1893.

Public Radio East, located on the Craven Community College campus, is a local NPR affiliate station. Morning Edition is one of NPR's flagship programs, with nationwide news and features throughout the morning. She anchors local news during this programming, at the top and bottom of the hour.

"We have a very small team — three in the news department and four on the administrative/fundraising side. I typically interview/gather/write about 90 percent of our content, from local short pieces within the newscasts to 10-minute feature programs.

"My alarm goes off at 3 a.m. weekdays. On one hand, I've been getting up that early or earlier since 2001, so it's almost my normal. On the other, getting up at 3 a.m. does kind of stink," Weston said.

'We make the news more informative'

"I really enjoy public radio. In the past, I have only worked for commercial radio stations," Weston said. "I think what we are able to do in terms of coverage is both more informative and entertaining than people would hear on the news otherwise. We focus on things that impact people more directly, and less on car crashes, police chases and the like."

"Just in the last few weeks, the declaration that gun violence is a public health crisis and following up with a shark expert after a teen was bitten swimming at a local beach, as well as the possibility of 18-foot-long sharks ending up in North Carolina and tagging along when an injured but rehabilitated sea turtle was released back to the ocean."

Her report on galeophobia — the official name for fear of sharks — pointed out that there have been but 10 fatal encounters along the coastline since 1864. Between 2013 and 2022, North Carolina recorded 31 total shark bites — "far fewer than other states like Florida and Hawaii."

"This career allows me to not only be a lifelong learner," Weston said, "but also to have the opportunity to be a teacher of sorts when I pass information along to others."

One regret Weston has about SMC is that she did not try out for the track team.

"I ran hurdles in high school and loved it, but I had to work to pay for school, so it wasn't an option."

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

spent the rest of his working years in maintenance for a Wendy's franchise in southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana. Along the way, his family grew, eventually totaling thirty-four members, including spouses, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many granddogs, whom he considered part of the family.

Jack was known for his humor, playful nature, and stubborn independence. He was a loyal Ohio State fan, an avid lottery ticket scratcher, and could always be found relaxing in his chair with a glass of whisky and water. He had a knack for pushing the buttons of the ones he loved, always with a chuckle afterward. His wit and charm will be forever remembered.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife of sixty-four years, Rita Turner; children, Jacqueline (Dave) Teske, Patrick (April) Turner, and Bradley (Heidi) Turner; grandchildren, Angie (Josh), Heather, Kelsey (Sam), Erica (Chris), Haley (Josh), Sean (Madeline), Raegan, and Ashlynn; great-grandchildren, Cagney, Ky, Lauren, Mali, Rune, Nova, Leah, Summer, Madeline, Henry, Noah, Ellie, and Kaitlyn; sister, Dora Hussey; and his granddogs Bentley, Colby, Rigley, Nala, Kio, Kinley, Mabel, Duke, Hondo, Moby, Ranger, and Maisie

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Gerald, Burl Jr., Bob, Kenny, Bill, Orville, Dick; sisters, Cora, Phyllis, Emma, Ginny, Donna; and great-granddaughter, April.

The family will gather to privately celebrate Jack's one-of-a-kind life, which will be held at a later date, where they will honor and remember the many beautiful moments they shared.

The family will carry Jack in their hearts forever, grateful for the love and joy he brought into their lives. The family says that heaven is brighter now that Jack is there and his spirit will remain with them, guiding through the days ahead.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Harriet Kathryn Buchanan

January 8, 1924 - February 25, 2025

Harriet Kathryn Buchanan, 101, of Niles, Michigan, passed away Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at Brickyard Care Center Mishawaka.

She was born January 8, 1924 in Laporte, Indiana, the daughter of Roy Zellers and Anna Marie (Schindler) Zellers.

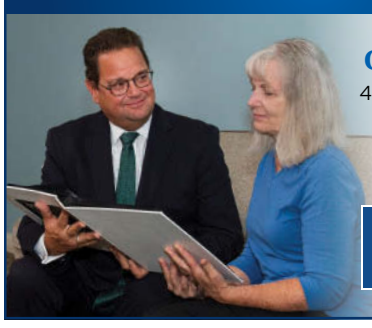
As the owner of Mode O'Day in Niles, Michigan, Harriet applied her keen sense of style and entrepreneurship with grace and vitality. Her talents extended beyond the business realm, as she lovingly assisted her husband in selling springs for repair, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to supporting her family's endeavors. On October 14, 1942 Harriet married the love of her life, Earl E. Buchanan, who preceded her in death March 26, 1995. Harriet was a devoted charter member of the South Bend Area Genealogical Society (SBAGS). Her passion for gardening was evident not only in her vibrant garden but also in her enjoyment of growing flowers and vegetables. An avid genealogist, Harriet dedicated time to tracing her family roots back to Germany, France, and Switzerland, delving into the rich history of her ancestors who emigrated in the early 1700s. This passion for her heritage enriched her understanding of family and her identity, which she shared with those close to her. Known for her appreciation of antiques, Harriet found joy in collecting and cherishing items that told a story of the past. She also loved expressing her creativity through needlework and art, showcasing her talents more than just in her business but in her personal life as well. She was a devoted mother, committed to creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for her family. Her culinary skills shone brightly as she entertained family and friends, serving dishes that were prepared with love, accompanied by thoughtful decorations that made her home a haven for all. Harriet Kathryn Buchanan will always be remembered for her enthusiasm, kindness, and the positive impact she made throughout her life. Her legacy will continue to inspire those who had the privilege to know her.

She is survived by her sister, Patricia Fisher, grandchildren, Sherrie, Ara, Brett; 7 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Along with her husband of 53 years, Harriet was preceded in death by her parents, son, David Buchanan; four brothers, Guy Zellers, Warren Zellers, William Zellers, Roy Zellers, and two sisters, Jean Palmer, Beverly Swanson.

Arrangements are being entrusted to Haverstock Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 602 Maple Ave., La Porte, IN where the family will receive friends for a visitation Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 10 a.m. until service time at 12 (noon) with Deacon from the St. Peter Catholic Church officiating. Interment will take place at Door Village Cemetery. A reception is to take place at the funeral home after the burial.

Online condolences may be made at www.haverstockfuneralhome.com.

Celebrate a life

CLARK CHAPEL
405 Center St, Dowagiac
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

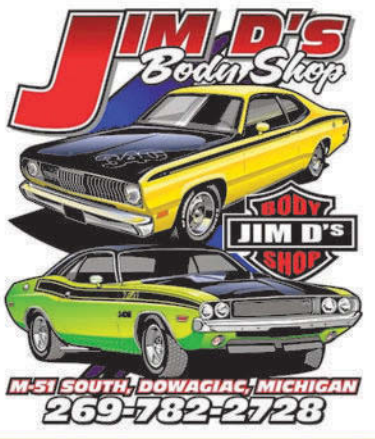
Wagner FAMILY FUNERALS
burials • cremations
Only you can understand your loss...
...we care enough to try.
Connelly Chapel
Cassopolis
269.445.2435
Pobocik Chapel
Three Oaks
269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

PIPESTONE SMALL ENGINE
We now carry Simplicity
Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment
Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors
Husqvarna
GRAVELY
• Cylinder Boring
• Machine Shop
• Engine Rebuilding
• Crankshaft Regrinding
Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton
Ariens • Husqvarna • Tanaka • Gravely
4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 · 269-461-6421
www.pipestonesmallenginemi.net

New Construction!

3 bedroom, 2.5 bath two story home in the city of Dowagiac. Front and back porch, 9' basement. Builder will work with buyer for interior preferences. 2586 total sq. ft.
Call today for details!
Cressy & Everett REAL ESTATE

Sheila Scott
REALTOR®
26251 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI
574-320-1815

JIM D'S Body Shop

M-51 SOUTH, DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
269-782-2728
"Collision Repairs Are Our Business"
Body and Frame Repair
Insurance Work Welcome

POKAGON AUTOMOTIVE
• Oil Changes
• Tire Service
• Brakes
• Auto Inspection
• Tune Ups
• Fleet Repair
• Suspension Work
• Batteries
• Used Tires
Synthetic Blend Oil Change $34.95*
*see us for details
60857 M-51, Dowagiac, MI 49047
(574) 339-9205
Next to Mantke's Mini Mart

Notre Dame events planned for Women's History Month

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The month of March is recognized annually as Women's History Month, a time set aside to recognize the achievements and contributions women have made to the nation and the world.

Several in-person events are taking place across campus in conjunction with the annual observance:

March 18: The Afterlife of Women's Participation in the 2011 Egyptian Uprising, 12:30 to 2 p.m., Hesburgh Center for International Studies, Room C103

Kellogg Visiting Fellow Nermin Allam will present her project, which examines how women's participation in the 2011 Egyptian uprising has influenced their gender consciousness and feminist subjectivities in the afterlife of activism.

March 19: Asian American Distinguished Speaker Series with Helen Zia, 5 p.m., Morris Inn, Smith Ballroom

Zia, a writer, journalist and Fulbright Scholar, has been a trailblazing activist on issues ranging from human rights to countering gender and hate violence and homophobia. Jennifer Huynh, assistant professor of American studies, will moderate the event, which is free and open to the public.

March 20: "Women Mentoring Women" Book Club and Author Talk, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., O'Shaughnessy Hall, Initiative on Race and Resilience Sojourner Truth Commons (Room 300)

The Gender Relations Center hosts Notre Dame alumna Michelle Renaldo Ferguson in discussing her book, "Women Mentoring Women" in celebration of Women's History Month. Reserve a book and a spot at the author talk.

March 21 and 22: Show Some Skin: Kaleidoscope, 7 p.m., Decio Theatre, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Show Some Skin is a student-led initiative that invites members of the Notre Dame community to share narratives about identity and difference. Anonymous monologues written by students, faculty, staff, and alumni are brought to life on stage. This year's performance will feature perspectives of individuals living at the crossroads of multiple cultures and experiences to create a kaleidoscope of stories that refracts the light of unity and illuminates the beauty of shared humanity.

The month of March is recognized annually as Women's History Month, a time set aside to recognize the achievements and contributions women have made to the nation and the world. Several in-person events are taking place across campus in conjunction with the annual observance

March 26-28: True Genius: The Mission of Women in Church and Culture, beginning at 8 a.m. each day, University of Notre Dame

This three-day conference will reflect upon the past and revitalize the present, to celebrate the feminine genealogy of the faith and to amplify the prophetic mission of women in our current moment. Registration is currently closed. Please click here to sign up for the waitlist.

March 29: Liberation: Songs of Harriet Tubman, 7:30 p.m., Leighton Concert Hall, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, in partnership with South Bend Symphony Orchestra, presents a symphonic concert featuring the "Songs of Harriet Tubman" and Louise Farrenc's "Third Symphony." Faculty conductor Cynthia Katsarelis will lead the collaboration with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and South African soprano Goitsemang Lehobye. The concert will include a preshow conversation highlighting South Bend's role on the Underground Railroad.

We'll be there when you need us most

Mission Hills
Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens
- Since 1953 -
Niles • 269-683-8333 • MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com

MONUMENTS By Design LLC
Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
www.monumentsbydesignllc.com
monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans
Paul E. Mayhew Funeral Home, Inc.
26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI
269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

Join us on a group trip.
Multiple night trips to the Mississippi River, Dollywood or Frankenmuth.
4-30 - Vera Bradley Outlet Sale
7-9 - Soaring Eagle Casino
7-19 - Chicago Cubs
SIGNAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
www.signaltravel.com
Give us a call or see our website for more information.
269-684-2880
1-800-811-1528

Did You Know...
Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner's insurance?
Call today to find out more!
(269) 683-4900
Business • Home
Auto • Life • Farm
IMS Insurance Management Service
Auto-Owners Insurance Life • Home • Car • Business
214 N. 4th St., Niles
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
(269) 683-4900

LEE to host scholarship banquet March 22

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASSOPOLIS — The League for Encouraging Empowerment is continuing its 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. theme of "The Dream: We Must Care?" with a banquet at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 22 at The Church of Cassopolis, 520 Pearl St., Cassopolis.

The event will feature a Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner and Ceremony. Each Ticket is $25 and all proceeds will go towards scholarships for graduating seniors at Cassopolis Ross Beatty High School in the names of Dan Lee, Elizabeth Pittman and Kim Lee. Dan was the originator of many sports events for Cassopolis youth and Elizabeth and Kim were Social Workers and founding board members of LEE. Last year, LEE awarded two $500 scholarships and numerous $25 gift cards to the others who applied for the scholarship. Entrepreneur and First lady of House of Prayer Church, Ashley Stephens, Educator Tina Widerquist-Pflug and Ferris State Graduate Tyrese Hunt-Thompson will be the speakers for the event in addition to the dinner provided.

Individuals can sponsor by giving $50 or more and organizations can be a sponsor by donating $100 or more for the scholarships. Sponsors will be acknowledged in the programs and on the website page. Donors and questions can contact Carmen Peake at admin@leellc.org or call (574) 206-3484.

THEATRE

Continued from page A1

how people see me," she said.

Phil Brackett as Clark Curtis. A stage performer since middle school, Phil performed with the Buchanan RedBud Chorale in high school and then went on to be a part of the Notre Dame Glee Club. In the fall of 2014, Phil debuted as an actor in "The Old Rugged Cross" in his role as 'Dad' and has continued to return to The Tin Shop stage, with this show his seventh. Phil is both a teacher and the Technology Director for Eau Claire Public Schools. Phil is married to fellow performer Jennie Brackett.

"It's a lot of work putting these things together and memorizing your lines but that work is fun to do when you're doing it with people that you enjoy being with and laughing with," Phil said. "Everybody who's here has a creative side where they take their character, and they make it their own but then we make this group together our own, so it almost becomes real."

Jennie Brackett as Keeky Curtis. Jennie performed in plays while as a student at Buchanan High School and has appeared in Tin Shop Theatre performances since 2014 when she debuted in "The Old Rugged Cross" as 'Mom' alongside her husband Phil. The two met in Buchanan's Redbud Chorale. Jennie also serves on Buchanan Community Schools' Board of Education.

"[Community theater] is just a great way for everybody to be drawn together to have a similar story," Jennie said. "We think everybody can get drawn in and there's so many people that come and watch these shows that are friends of ours, and then it just expands this theater family a little bit more and a little bit more. I know we've all talked about it at our places of work and our social groups, and so it's just great that you know we all have our own little networks and then we bring all those networks together for a great community show."

Evan Kring as Nigel Grimm. Kring is a senior at Berrien Springs High School who will be appearing in his fifth Tin Shop Theatre production. Kring enjoys the bond and friendship he has created with the cast and crew.

"It's pretty fun," Evan said. "I have a good experience with everybody here. I've done plays with them in the past so I'm pretty used to the group and it's pretty easy to get along with them."

Dave Perez as Edgar Hill. Perez began his time with the Tin Shop Theatre in 2016 as a set builder and has since transitioned to the stage. He has appeared in several shows, including "Way Out West in a Dress" and "Spirit!"

"There's a lot that I take away from [the theater experience] personally and it is the relationship that I have with these people because these people know me and they still care about me," Perez said. "I feel more accepted here than I have growing up in certain parts of my own family so I feel that kind of love with these people. It's just a magical thing to have."

Geneva Tabor as Sarah Dane. A Buchanan graduate, Tabor is in her second year at Lake Michigan College. She has performed for the Buchanan Drama Club as well as the South Bend Civic Theatre.

Tabor looks forward to bringing Sarah Dane to life in her first Tin Shop Theatre production.

"I think taking a step back and not being like the focal point of the show is an interesting perspective because I feel like my character is behind the scenes and I'm a very vocal person and very outgoing," Tabor said. "I am learning how to be reserved and mindful of my character on stage with other characters."

JAIL

Continued from page A1

knife, was forfeited.

He also pleaded guilty to receiving, concealing or possession of stolen property $1,000 to $20,000 and was sentenced to two years probation, 210 days in jail with credit for 63 days served and $468 in fines and costs on the stolen property charge.

The incident occurred Dec. 30, 2024 in Niles Township.

Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky said he was concerned that Friant was being set up for failure by being put on probation as he had had his probation revoked in the past.

Briseno said Friant knows he needs to make changes. "We have talked about what he needs to do to turn his life around," Briseno said. "He can turn his life around so he's not stuck with him forever. He's been embracing that. He's going to be living with his mother and she's not going to tolerate misbehavior."

"The purpose of a sentencing is both personal rehabilitation and retribution," Judge Hosbein said. "Here, you will have up front jail and then probation. I will give you another shot at probation."

In other sentencings:

• Joseph Michael Bobik, Jr., 27, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of meth and possession of LSD and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served and $726 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Nov. 16, 2024 in Niles.

• Brittany Lee Mitchell, 29, of Niles, pleaded guilty to attempted possession of a taser and was sentenced to credit for four days served, 50 hours of community service, forfeiture of the taser and $278 in fines and costs.. The incident occurred Sept. 24, 2024 in Niles.

• Jocelyn Frances Roberts, 19, of Niles, pleaded guilty to possession of a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and was sentenced to credit for 39 days served and $598 in fines and costs. The incident occurred July 16, 2024 in Niles.

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Robert Clayton
30+ Years Experience
PLASTERING & DRYWALL
• Fast Dependable Service
• Clean Quality Work
• Finish and Repair
• Water Damage Specialist
269-695-7621
4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

TRACK AND FIELD

Dowagiac's Saylor signs with SMC

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College's cross country and track and field teams added some more homegrown talent.

Dowagiac's Owen Saylor is staying local and has signed his NJCAA Letter of Intent to run cross country for Coach Zac Sartori as a Roadrunner. Saylor will also compete in track and field for SMC.

"I've been watching Owen improve over the last four years," Sartori said. "It was a great pleasure to coach both of his older brothers and I'm so happy to have Owen joining the program and continuing the Saylor legacy. Owen will be a big piece of making this program great and I'm certain he is going to take us to the next level."

Owen said he chose SMC because of the atmosphere, the campus and coach Sartori. Being able to compete close to home was also a plus.

"It's been awesome, because everybody is supportive and it's a small town, so everybody knows everybody and it's just nice to have support from everybody around you," he said.

Both Alec Saylor and Ethan Saylor ran for the Roadrunners in the 2021-2022 season, helping to restart and immediately lift the program back into a top-20 national ranking after a 25-year hiatus. Ethan then continued at SMC in 2022-2023, graduated in May 2023 and has run for two years at Goshen College, an NAIA program in Goshen, Indiana.

"My brothers helped me start because at first I didn't want to run at all and then my coach helped me become a leader and lead myself to where I am," Owen said. "Everybody's helping – my parents and all my peers have helped me. Even when I was low, they helped me bring myself back up."

A two-time Lakeland Conference individual cross country champion,

See SMC, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

WRESTLING

Niles' Ward earns runner-up finish at state wrestling finals

COMMUNITY REPORT

DETROIT — Maddison Ward's bid for a repeat state title ended one win short Saturday night.

Ward of Niles was pinned by Kaili Manuel of Romeo in the girls 155-pound title match at the Individual State Wrestling Championships at Ford Field.

Ward, who finished 30-1, had reached the title match with two pins and an overtime win over Grand Haven's Isabelle Wisenbaugh. But she was no match for Manuel, who won the state 140-pound title a year ago and finished 42-0.

Ward won the 171-pound title last year at Brandywine before transferring to Niles.

Two area boys placed with Niles' Sam Rucker (36-3) fourth at 171 pounds in Division 2 and Dowagiac's Cal Chapman (42-4) was fifth at 285 in Division 3.

BOYS DIVISION 2
Championship Round 1

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) d. Cedric Jackson II (Lansing Waverly) 6-5.

Quarterfinals

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) t.f. over Kurt Freling (Mount Pleasant) 19-4.

Semifinals

175: Zachary Taylor (OA Carlson) d. Sam Rucker (Niles) 4-2.

Consolation Semifinals

175: Sam Rucker (Niles) d. Louis Smith (Three Rivers) 7-3.

Third place

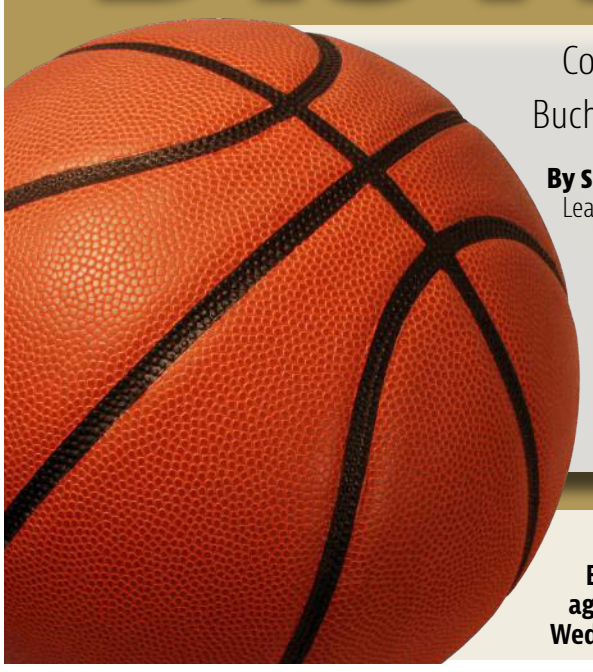
175: Jonathan Golec

See FIFTH, Page B2

PHOTOS SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

BASKETBALL

GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICTS



Complete game sends Eddies to finals; Buchanan falls to Berrien Springs in thriller

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Shelby Laubach and her Edwardsburg girls' basketball teammates found a higher gear in Wednesday's Division 2 district semifinals.

Scott Rodeslier's Lady Eddies enjoyed one of

See DISTRICTS, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Ella Zache (5) from Edwardsburg drives to the basket against her cousin and Niles guard Maddie Zache (5) in Wednesday's district semifinal game at Berrien Springs.

BASKETBALL

Brandywine rolls Bridgman 47-11 in D3 district semifinal

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BRIDGMAN — The Brandywine girls basketball team's quest to return to the Breslin Center began in winning fashion Wednesday night.

The Bobcats (23-0) defeated host Bridgman (14-9) 47-11. Mackenna Price led the team in scoring with eight points as 10 Bobcats scored. Brandywine led 25-5 at halftime. Tatyanna Hill scored six points to lead Bridgman.

The Bobcats and Chiefs faced off Friday night in the Division 3 district title game. The recap of that game will be found online at leaderpub.com and will be in the March 15 print edition of the newspaper.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

New Teen Members Get $50*
GREAT RIVER Federal Credit Union
PROMO CODE: TEENFUTURE50
*SCAN FOR DETAILS
Insured by NCUA

BASKETBALL

Marshall edges Edwardsburg 45-40 in D2 boys regional semifinal

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

BATTLE CREEK — Costly mistakes and a lack of execution down the stretch by the Edwardsburg boys basketball team led to a 45-40 Division 2 regional semifinals' loss to Marshall Tuesday at Battle Creek Harper Creek.

Marshall, now 19-7, advances to face Holland Christian (17-8) in Thursday's regional championship game at 7 p.m.

Holland Christian defeated Plainwell (17-7) 49-36 in the other semifinal clash.

Edwardsburg (18-8) led Marshall 33-28 at the end of the third quarter. But the Redhawks turned up its defensive intensity while outscoring the Eddies 17-7 in the fourth quarter to come away with the win.

Brody Schimpa's putback off his own missed shot gave Edwardsburg a 40-37 lead with 3:42 left in the game.

But the Redhawks' Austin Miller drained a mid-range jumper then added a three pointer and free throw shortly after to put his team up 43-40 with 24.8 seconds left.

Following a timeout, Edwardsburg came down the floor and missed a couple opportunities. The Eddies got the ball again, but Miller stole a cross-court pass with 10 seconds left and was fouled. Miller hit both foul shots to seal the win.

"We gave up a late three that they hadn't made most of the game. Then we couldn't get any shots to fall at the end. Marshall changed defenses on us a couple times and we turned the ball over twice and weren't able to get into what we wanted tp do a couple times and that hurt us in those last few minutes," said Edwardsburg coach Jared Frick.

Edwardsburg jumped out to an quick 8-2 lead behind six points from Reed Gates. A bucket moments later from 6-foot-5 senior center Matt Anders gave the Eddies a 10-2 cushion. Consecutive baskets by the Redhawks' Miller and Isaac Hackworth lessened that deficit to four, 10-6.

An 8-foot jumper from the senior Schimpa put Edwardsburg up 12-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Maverick Gates' layup kept the Eddies in front 14-8 early in the second stanza. But Marshall clawed its way back to tie things up twice and eventually grabbed a brief 19-17 lead on Clark Irwin's assist underneath to Lincoln Fuller for a deuce.

A late steal in the half by Schimpa and assist to Maverick Gates helped Edwardsburg tie the game at 19-19 going into halftime.

"We told the kids at halftime to just continue to try and contain their (Marshall) drives to the basket and contest shots. I thought we did a nice doing that the whole game. Ultimately, though, we just didn't take care of the basketball well enough to win this game. Credit Marshall because they made enough plays at the end to win," Frick said.

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Edwardsburg senior center Matt Anders (35) slam dunks the basketball after a getting steal in the third quarter of Tuesday's regional basketball game against Marshall.

Edwardsburg looked in great shape in the third quarter after the Eddies built a seven-point 31-24 lead following Anders' bucket inside and free throw. Matt Wailo's layup and a Landon Lewis free throw brought the Redhawks back within four, 31-27. But the Eddies would get a layup from Blaise Crist to lead by five, 33-28 entering the final period.

Schimpa closed out his career for the Eddies with a team-high 13 points on 7-of-23 shooting from the floor. He also had four rebounds, one assist, a block and two steals.

Anders, who fouled out with 1:26 left in the contest, added nine points, four rebounds, one assist, one block and three steals for the Eddies. Reed Gates added six points, six boards, one assist and one steal. Crist finished with five points, three rebounds and four assists. Connor Solarek added two points, a pair of assists and three steals. Maverick Gates finished with four points.

Edwardsburg outrebounded Marshall by the slimmest of margins 24-23.

The Eddies finished the night shooting 16-of-40 (40 percent) from the field and 7-of-9 (77.8 percent) at the foul stripe.

Miller scored 15 points for Marshall, which shot 16-of-35 (45.7 percent) from the floor and 10-of-16 (62.5 percent) at the free-throw stripe. Austin Burns added eight points and Fuller scored six for the Redhawks, who had 14 turnovers to the Eddies 16 miscues.

Lewis added six rebounds, four assists and three steals for Marshall.

The game was the final one for the Eddies' four seniors in Schimpa, Anders, Solarek and Ayden Billingsley.

Schimpa was a three-year varsity starter, while Anders started for four years.

"I'm so happy we were able to win a district title and get 18 wins for these four seniors because they really deserve it. Our big win at South Bend Adams was a good one for us. We had a low point where we lost four straight, but the kids kept battling and they've just took whatever we've asked them to do and done it to the fullest," Frick said. "It wasn't easy at times, but this was such a special group for me to have in my first year coaching. I couldn't ask for a better group of kids. They just busted their tails. I can't say enough for what we were able to accomplish for our seniors."

Edwardsburg will return five juniors, two sophomores and a pair of freshmen who all got varsity experience this season.

SMC

Continued from page B1

Owen ran a personal-best of 16:12.7 as a senior at the Division 2 regional at Portage Central. Saylor is also a 800-meter and 1600-meter track champion.

"All of us have seen it over the years that he has really put a hundred percent into everything running, and not just the running part," said Dowagiac coach Mike Williams. "He's really become a leader in our track program, and it's made a huge difference for our program in general with our kids, which is some of the reasons why our 400 and 800 Runners and our men to long distance have been so successful over the last couple years. They're trying to catch up to him, and that's what you want in a program like that, is somebody that pushes everybody else and so congratulations to him. I know he's going to do great – not just there, but wherever he transfers – he's going to continue to be successful."

Owen Saylor is the fourth member of SMC's 2025 Men's Cross Country recruiting class, joining Maguire Johnson of Edwardsburg, Tyler Caruso of Bangor and Carlos Ruiz-Garcia of Hartford.

"This means a lot because I get to run for my hometown," Owen said. "I hope that I can make a difference and hopefully bring the program into a better space."

FIFTH

Continued from page B1

(Goodrich) d. Sam Rucker (Niles) 2-1.

BOYS DIVISION 3
Championship Round 1

144: Mikey Wilson (Grand Rapids Catholic Central) p. Cameron White (Dowagiac) :22; 157: Liam Leeke (Whitehall) d. Leland Payne (Buchanan) 9-8; 215: Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) received a bye; 285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) p. Nick Brasseur (Gladwin) 1:41.

Quarterfinals

215: Wyatt Jenkins (Whitehall) p. Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) 1:07; 285: Joel Simon (Lake Odessa Lakewood) p. Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) 5:39.

Consolation Round 1

144: Alex Bright (Algonac) d. Cameron White (Dowagiac) 6-1; 157: Leland Payne (Buchanan) p. Brody Fessenden (Shelby) 1:43.

Consolation Round 2

157: Ethan White (Birch Run) d. Leland Payne (Buchanan) 4-3; 215: Barrett Spitzley (Portland) p. Hayden Groth (Dowagiac) 2:59; 285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) t.f. over Owen Perior (Montrose) 18-2.

Consolation Round 3

285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) d. Andrew Whitney (Hazel Park) 10-6.

Consolation Semifinals

285: Waylon Lingeman (Central Montcalm) p. Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) 4:35.

Fifth Place

285: Cal Chapman (Dowagiac) m.d. over Adrian Lara (Hart) 10-1.

GIRLS
Championship Round 1

115: Gracey Barry (Grand Haven) p. Kloe Kiggins (Niles) :33.

135: Kennedi Wahlmhoff (Manton) p. Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) 1:36.

145: Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) p. Morgan Ludwig (Midland) 3:00.

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) p. Paige Willman (Frankfort) 2:44.

Quarterfinals

145: Rihanna Venegas (Gabriel Richard Riverview) p. Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) 3:27.

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) p. Brooklyn Wage (Southgate Anderson) 5:50.

Consolation Round 1

115: Meadow Gomez (Bedford) p. Kloe Kiggins (Niles) 3:30.

135: Kaley Murphy (Fowlerville) p. Kadence Ashe (Buchanan) 4:22.

Consolation Round 2

145: Lorelei Shrum (North Farmington) p. Cinthia Villegas (Dowagiac) 1:39.

Semifinals

155: Maddison Ward (Niles) d. Isabelle Wisenbaugh (Grand Haven) 6-5 (Ultimate tie breaker).

First Place

155: Kaili Manuel (Romeo) p. Maddison Ward (Niles) 4:29.

DISTRICTS

Continued from page B1

its better shooting performances of the season in a 54-18 win over Niles. In the other game, Buchanan (13-11) saw its season end with a heartbreaking 46-44 loss to Berrien Springs.

Laubach, a 5-foot-7 sophomore guard, poured in a game-high 19 points for Edwardsburg and added five rebounds, four assists and six steals.

The production didn't stop there, however, as 5-8 senior postplayer Kourtney Zarycki added 12 points, Maddie Pobuda 10 and Ella Zache had seven for the Eddies, who were 21-of-56 (38 percent) from the floor and 5-of-8 (63 percent) at the free-throw line.

"We played with a lot of energy and enthusiasm tonight. I felt like this was one of our most complete games of the season from start to finish," Rodeslier said. "Shelby played really well for us and I thought Ella was a real spark defensively. Kourtney was great on the boards and had some good offensive finishes. Even though Maddie's shot didn't start to fall until the second half she still contributed in other ways on the floor. Kya Shier is a defensive menace when she's out there too. Everyone contributed for us. We wanted to really pressure Niles and force at least 22 turnovers and I think we did that. March Madness is a fun time of the season. We just have to work hard to keep it going."

Niles, which finished 7-17, was led in scoring by Jessie Thornton with seven points and Tanaya Brown added six for the Vikings, who made just six field goals and 5-of-7 free-throw attempts.

Edwardsburg claimed a 31-16 rebounding advantage over Niles.

Edwardsburg built itself a 14-0 advantage before Niles put its first point on the scoreboard with a Thornton free-throw toss with just 2:16 left in the first quarter. Laubach hit a three pointer at the buzzer to give the Eddies a 17-1 advantage entering the second quarter.

Behind 11 points and three steals from Laubach in the second quarter and putbacks from Zarycki and Mya Eberlein (6-2) just before halftime, the Lady Eddies increased their lead to 30, 38-8 at the intermission.

Any thoughts Niles might've had of getting itself back into the game were quickly doused as Pobuda scored eight of her points, including a triple, during a third quarter that saw Edwardsburg increase its lead to 51-13 entering the fourth quarter.

Niles increased its win total to seven this season under second-year head coach Sarah Workman.

The Vikings have a bright future as they lose just one senior, Kayla Kiggins to graduation.

"Kayla improved a great deal and was a phenomenal leader for us this season," Workman said.

"Our program is heading in the right direction. We have some good girls coming up from our junior varsity and there will be some good eighth graders coming into the high school program."

Berrien Springs 46, Buchanan 44

Just like in its two previous meetings with its Lakeland Conference foes, Buchanan came out on the short end of a close finish against the Shamrocks.

The Lady Bucks took a 31-26 lead after three quarters then overcame a pair of six-point deficits in the fourth to give themselves a chance at the end.

Senior Alyssa Carson drained a pressure-packed three-pointer with 35 seconds left to lessen Buchanan's deficit to one point, 45-44.

Buchanan missed two attempts from the floor and a pair of free throws at the end and turned the ball over once in the final 25 seconds.

Adeline Weber hit the second of two foul shots with 14 seconds to seal the win for the Shamrocks.

"Our girls came out a little anxious, but they were ready to play. We knew what happened the first couple times we played Berrien Springs. They beat us by one and two points before and tonight was another classic. Unfortunately we were on the wrong-side of all three of those," said Buchanan head coach Alex Austin.

"We were able to take the lid off the basket and fought back because that's what we've done all year when we've gotten off to slow starts. The thing about these girls is you can't teach the grit and fight they showed tonight. I'm really proud of them."

Buchanan got 14 points from junior Justyce Cashier and Carson, the Bucks' 6-2 senior center, scored 10 points, while Kate Ailes and Maddie Young both contributed nine.

Carson also had seven rebounds for Buchanan and Ailes and Young grabbed five each.

The Bucks made 15-of-66 (23 percent) shots from the floor and 10-of-14 (71.4 percent) at the foul stripe.

Aubrie Smith totaled 19 points to lead Berrien Springs. Addie Frakas contributed nine, Kathryn Bergan scored seven. Berrien Springs outrebounded Buchanan 33-25. Smith also had 14 rebounds for the Shamrocks.

Berrien Springs jumped out to a double-digit lead, 14-4 after the opening period by getting good looks inside and converting some early free throws.

Trailing 19-4 in the second quarter, Buchanan gained some momentum by finishing off the first half with an 11-0 run to pull within four, 19-15 at halftime.

Keying the Bucks' charge was Young with a triple, Aspen Berry's basket, two Cailin Horvath free-throw tosses and a pair of buckets inside by Carson.

Buchanan outscored Berrien Springs 16-7 in the third quarter to set themselves up for the exciting fourth-quarter finish.

The game marked the end of a great four-year career for Carson, who will play women's volleyball at Indiana University of South Bend. Also concluding their careers for Buchanan are Young, Horvath, Ailes, Evyn Pruett, Cam Carlson and Akirrah Robinson.

"All of our seniors are incredible players and we're going to miss each and every one of them. Our high points were the many games we clawed out way back late to win. This group really came together as a team later in the season. At the beginning we were focusing more on ourselves and once we centered on the team we started winning more games and bigger games. Once we did that we saw that passion and grit from these girls," Austin said.

The Eddies and Shamrocks faced off Friday night in the Division 2 district title game. The recap of that game will be found online at leaderpub.com and will be in the March 15 print edition of the newspaper.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
DIVISION 2
EDWARDSBURG 54, NILES 18
At Berrien Springs

NILES (18): Jessie Thornton 7, Tanaya Brown 6, Gianna Ball 3, Maddie Zache 0, Kayla Kiggins 2, Ari Gerrits 0. Totals 6 5-8 18.

EDWARDSBURG (54): Shelby Laubach 19, Ella Zache 7, Maddie Pobuda 10, Kourtney Zarycki 12, Mya Eberlein 4, Kya Shier 2. Totals 23 5-8 54.

Niles 1 8 13 18

Edwardsburg 17 38 51 54

3-point baskets: Niles 1 (Ball 1), Edwardsburg 3 (Pobuda 2, Laubach 1). Total fouls: Niles 8, Edwardsburg 8. Records: Niles 7-17, Edwardsburg 14-9

BERRIEN SPRINGS 46, BUCHANAN 44
At Berrien Springs

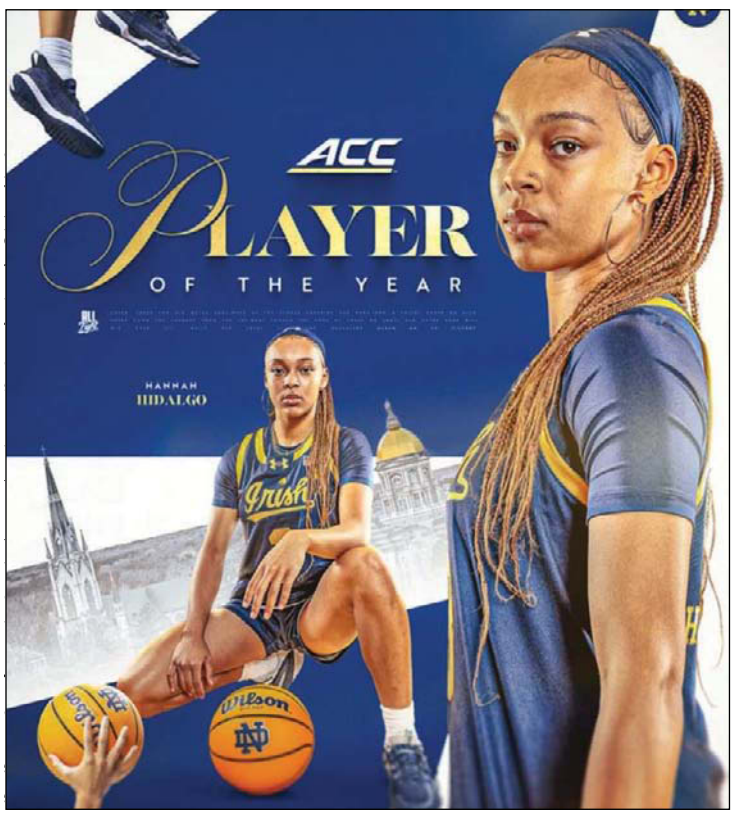
BUCHANAN (44): Caitlin Horvath 0, Maddie Young 9, Aspen Berry 2, Justyce Cashier 14, Evyn Pruett 0, Katie Ailes 9, Alyssa Carson 10. Totals 15 10-14 44.

BERRIEN SPRINGS (46): Lillian Weigand 2, Adeline Webber 5, Zion Ellis 4, Kathryn Bergan 7, Addison Frakes 9, Aubre Smith 19. Totals 15 15-22 46.

Buchanan 1 15 31 44
Berrien Springs 14 19 26 46

3-point baskets: Buchanan 4 (Carson 2, Ailes 1, Young 1), Berrien Springs 1 (Frakes 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Buchanan 18 (Ailes), Berrien Springs 18. Records: Buchanan 13-11, Berrien Springs 17-4

BASKETBALL



Hidalgo Named ACC Player, Defensive Player of the Year

COMMUNITY REPORT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Notre Dame guard Hannah Hidalgo continues to make history in South Bend. On Tuesday, the sophomore was named ACC Player of the Year and ACC Defensive Player of the Year. She is the fourth Notre Dame player to earn the ACC's top honor (Jewell Loyd, Kayla McBride [Coaches' Poll] and Brianna Turner), and this is the second consecutive year Hidalgo has been named ACC Defensive Player of the Year.

Hidalgo is the fourth ever sophomore to be named ACC Player of the Year.

Hannah Hidalgo — Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year

Hidalgo is pacing the Irish this season on both ends of the court. She leads the team with 24.2 points and 3.7 steals per game, marks that rank second and fourth in the nation, respectively. Hidalgo ranks fifth in the ACC with a 40.1 success rate from beyond the arc and is averaging 2.1 triples per game.

The 5-6 guard has already re-written portions of the Irish record book, too. She is the only player in program history with 600 points in both her freshman and sophomore seasons in South Bend, and she has 100 steals this year, the sophomore record. It is just the fourth time in program history a Notre Dame player has had a 100-steal season. Hidalgo did it last year as well (160).

In addition to Hidalgo, Olivia Miles, Sonia Citron, Liatu King and Kate Koval earned ACC honors after standout performances during the regular season.

Olivia Miles — All-ACC First Team

For the third time in her storied career, Miles notched a spot on the All-ACC First Team. The floor general is averaging 16.5 points, 6.1 rebounds and 5.9 assists per game. She is one of four players nationally averaging 16, 6 and 5. The New Jersey native leads the ACC in assists per game (14th nationally) and ranks ninth in the conference in scoring. She is shooting 50.9 percent from the floor (eighth in the ACC) and 41.6 percent from deep (third in the ACC). Miles is one of two ACC guards shooting 50 and 40 this season.

Additionally, Miles leads the nation with three triple-doubles this season and became the first player in ACC history with back-to-back triple-doubles (Loyola and Virginia). Her 20-point triple-double in Notre Dame's opener against Mercyhurst came on the heels of a year off while rehabbing a torn ACL, making her the first player in NBA, WNBA or college basketball history to sit out for a year due to injury and post a 20-point triple-double in their first game back.

Sonia Citron — All-ACC First Team, All-ACC Defensive Team

Citron has been a constant on the ACC postseason honors list since coming to Notre Dame. The 2022 ACC Rookie of the Year was also on the First Team in 2023 and Second Team in 2024. This season, Citron is posting 14.2 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game. She has gotten even hotter as of late, averaging 18.2 points and 7 rebounds while shooting 60.6 percent from the floor and 48 percent from deep over the last six games. After breaking the program's free throw percentage record last season, Citron is 59-66 this year (89.4 percent).

While the stat sheet may not always show it, Citron is widely regarded as one of the best defenders in the nation. She is consistently tasked with guarding an opponent's best player and has helped lock down All-Americans Paige Bueckers and JuJu Watkins this season to give Notre Dame multiple AP Top 5 opponents. Additionally, Citron is one of just four players in the ACC who ranks in the top 20 in the conference in both blocks and steals per game.

Liatu King — All-ACC Second Team

For the second consecutive season, King finds herself an All-ACC honoree. She was on the All-ACC First Team and was named the conference's Most Improved Player last year.

To say King has been a welcomed addition down low for Notre Dame is an understatement. The 6-0 power forward is one of four players in the conference averaging a double-double (11.6/10.9). She is the only major conference player in the nation averaging at least 11 points, 10 rebounds, 2 steals and a block per game.

King has a team-leading 12 double-doubles this year and has recorded double-figure boards in 22 of 28 games this year. In total, King already has 304 rebounds this year, becoming just the seventh player in program history with 300 or more rebounds in a single season. She notched 100 rebounds in just nine games this year, the fastest player to do so to start a season in program history.

Kate Koval — All-ACC Freshman Team

Koval burst onto the scene for Notre Dame in the fall. Through three games, Koval had 40 points, 33 rebounds, 8 assists and 15 blocks. According to OptaStats, the last Division I freshman (male or female) to reach those numbers in any three-game span is Kentucky's Anthony Davis. She had 19 rebounds (a program record for a freshman) and 7 blocks at Lafayette and 16 and 6 against JMU. Additionally, she posted 5 blocks against Texas, becoming the fifth Irish player in the last 25 years with 5+ blocks against a top-5 team, joining Ruth Riley, Amanda Barksdale, Brianna Turner and Maya Dodson.

On the whole, she is averaging 5.7 points and 5.1 rebounds per game, one of three conference freshmen posting 5 and 5.

BASKETBALL

Late Brandywine rally falls short in 45-39 D3 district finals loss to Bridgman

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

COTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Niles Brandywine sophomore Emerson Gogley (13) battles Charlie Pagel (14) from Bridgman for possession of the basketball.

CASSOPOLIS — A late fourth-quarter rally by the Brandywine boys basketball team fell short in a 45-39 loss to Bridgman Feb. 28 in the Division 3 district finals at Cassopolis.

Bridgman (18-6) advances to face the host school in next week's Schoolcraft Regional semifinal on Tuesday.

After trailing Bridgman 32-22 at halftime, Brandywine gave up three quick baskets in the third quarter as its deficit grew to as many as 16 points, 38-22.

Nathan Knapp's Bobcats used a 11-0 run though to finish the period and pulled within five, 38-33 entering the fourth after Richard Ryder scored off an inbounds play for the Bobcats.

Ethan Stine drained a triple on Bridgman's first possession of the fourth to give the Bees a 41-33 lead.

Brandywine's Elijah Burt scored two straight baskets, including a triple to bring the Bobcats within three points, 41-38 with 4:42 left.

Jared Schroeder's pair of free throws with 20.3 seconds left lifted the Bees' lead to five, 43-38.

Nylen Goins then hit the first of two free throws bringing the Bobcats back within four. But Brandywine was forced to foul and Pagel drilled both free-throw tosses to seal up the win.

Brandywine had a few opportunities down the stretch by couldn't get a shot to fall.

"Our kids played really hard tonight. It was a ypung group this year and the growth out of them this year was amazing. This was a tough way to go out," Knapp said.

Nylen Goins, Brandywine's leading scorer and all-state candidate, finished with 14 points for the Bobcats. His first bucket of the night put him over the 1,000 point barrier. Goins posed with Knapp for a quick photo with a banner commemorating the occasion at the end of the quarter. Goins' career point total now stands at 1,012 with his senior year left at Brandywine.

Burt added eight points for the Bobcats, while Hubbard, Brandywine's 6-foot-4 sophomore center, tossed in six.

Brandywine ended the game shooting 15-of-50 (30 percent) from the floor and made 5-of-8 (63 percent) free-throw attempts.

Andrew Mabry topped Bridgman with 13 points, while Stine and Pagel added 11 apiece for the Bees, who were 17-of-42 (40.4 percent) from the floor and 7-for-8 (88 percent) at the foul stripe.

Bridgman earned a 33-25 rebounding advantage over Brandywine.

Ryder pulled down nine rebounds for the Bobcats and Hubbard added six and Gogley four.

Senior center Will Haskins pulled down 10 rebounds for Bridgman.

The two teams traded buckets to start the contest. Stine's basket and free throw for the Bees tied it momentarily at 10-10. Pagel drove into the lane to hit a deuce and Mabry added a bucket moments later to put the Bees in front 14-10. Brandywine's Hubbard scored inside to make it a two-point game. But Pagel tallied another two pointer to put his team back up by four. Goins, though, drained the second of his two tripes in the opening period to lessen the Bobcats' deficit to one, 16-15 entering the second quarter.

Sophmore Emerson Gogley hit a bucket in the lane to start the second stanza and put Brandywine up 17-16. But the Bees outscored the Bobcats 16-5 the remainder of the period to built itself a double-digit lead entering halftime, 32-22.

"We had a bad second quarter where we gave them some uncontested layups off back-door cuts. For some reason our spacing was off, maybe our youth showed up there again. I think the momentum shifted there and we kind've got the deer in the headlights look. We didn't come out flat there, I think we were just overplaying and they would get that cut," Knapp said.

"Basketball is a game of runs. We did a nice job of making them attack the basket all nights. Hats off to Bridgman. I hope they can make a run and represent our area. Our kids grew from this season and now they have to decide to put the time and effort into getting better for next season."

BASKETBALL

Edwardsburg boys beat Buchanan 45-35 for D2 district championship

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF DOUGLAS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brody Schimpa drives past Buchanan's Karmine Brown.

DOWAGIAC — The Edwardsburg boys basketball team knows that it is not how you start but how you finish.

The Eddies overcame an early nine-point deficit to beat Buchanan 45-35 Feb. 28 in the Division 2 district championship game, its first district title since 2022.

"It's kind of surreal," said first-year Edwardsburg coach Jared Frick. "I'm sure it'll hit me here pretty soon. It feels weird because we worked so long and then it's just one moment but these kids deserve so much credit for everything they've done since October. This is such a great group; they deserve this, so I'm excited to be a part of it. Now we get to do it for at least a couple more days."

The 18-7 Eddies will face 18-6 Marshall at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Regional semifinal play at Battle Creek Harper Creek.

Brody Schimpa led Edwardsburg with 18 points and Blaise Crist scored 12 points while Connor Solarek added seven. Karmine Brown finished with 17 points to lead Buchanan and Logan Wiggins added seven.

"No one expected us to be here. Our kids believed the whole time and showed up and played," said Buchanan coach Reid McBeth. "[Edwardsburg's] got a lot of good players and they battled back and hit some shots and we persevered with Karmine on the bench... This team, when you look out there, we're not big but we battled the whole time and they never quit. They go hard and they're gonna come at you and I just told them I can't fault anything about that. Great attitudes, they love each other, show up to practice every day and they do what you wanted to do. As a coach, really, that's all you can ask for. Nobody wants to walk out of a game as the loser on the school board, but these guys are fighters and they're gonna do good things in life and I'm proud of everyone of them."

Buchanan started strong out of the gate with a 13-4 lead after one quarter of play. But with Buchanan's leading scorer Karmine Brown on the bench for the entirety of the second quarter with foul trouble, the Eddies were able to outscore the Bucks 8-0 in the quarter to trim the deficit to 13-12 at halftime. With Brown back in the lineup, Buchanan used an 8-0 run to take a 21-14 lead midway through the third quarter before the Eddies used their defense to fuel a 26-0 run to take a 40-21 lead into the middle of the fourth.

"That was insane," Frick said. "We really thrive off our defense – it's what helps us get out in transition and run – and they just finally sat down and took no for an answer. They played great defense and they deserve all the credit for that."

A 14-3 Buchanan run trimmed the deficit to as few as seven points in the closing seconds but it was not enough. The Bucks finish the season with a 17-7 record.

While the loss stings, McBeth is proud of his team and appreciates his players' effort this season.

"I think probably the reason that so many people doubt us is because when you look at us, we might not look like a team that's going to come out there and beat you," he said. "But I think the ability that we have is that we're willing to work hard and there are teams that aren't like that when things don't go their way or they don't get as many minutes as they want. These guys, you didn't hear one complaint, ever. When you have a basketball team that buys in and knows what you want, you couldn't ask for more as a coach. These guys did that and I appreciate every minute I was able to spend with them."

For Frick and his team, winning a district championship in front of hundreds of fans means a great deal.

"My wife went to Edwardsburg and her family is from there, so to win it for not only the school but for the community and [my family], it's just so special," he said. "It's just a blessing."

DIVISION 2
EDWARDSBURG 45, BUCHANAN 35
At Dowagiac

BUCHANAN (35): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 4, Liam McBeth 3, Karmine Brown 17, Jake Franklin 2, Logan Wiggins 7, Will Carson 0, Owen Thompson 0, Ari Johnson 0. Totals 14 4-6 35.

EDWARDSBURG (45): Joe Shively 2, Brody Schimpa 18, Conor Solarek 7, Blaise Crist 12, Michael Wright 0, Reed Gates 4, Matt Anders 2. Totals 18 8-12 45.

Buchanan 13 13 21 35

Edwardsburg 4 12 24 45

3-point baskets: Buchanan 3 (Brown 3), Edwardsburg 1 (Schimpa 1). Total fouls: Buchanan 12, Edwardsburg 10. Records: Edwardsburg 18-7, Buchanan 17-7

Classifieds Marketplace

NILES, BUCHANAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

25 N. 2nd St.
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 591-6105

LeaderPub.com
classifieds@leaderpub.com
public.notices@leaderpub.com

Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS $1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB

1-877-591-9950

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

EASE OF USE CERTIFIED Arthritis Foundation · MADE IN TENNESSEE · BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS · LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Employment

Job Opportunities

Assistant Business Unit Leader
Please send resume to:
Modineer Company LLC,
Attn: Sabrina Pesce – HR Mgr.,
2102 S. 11 th St.,
Niles, MI 49120.

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Leader Publications Classified Marketplace has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
269-591-6105

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOWARD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF REVIEW

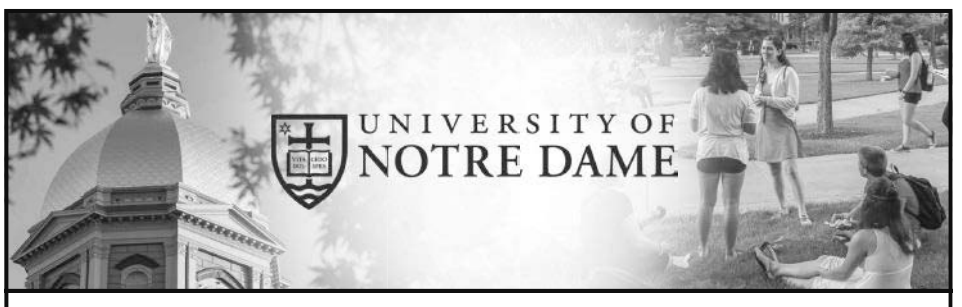
The Organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 12:30 pm at the Howard Township Hall, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles. No appeals of 2025 assessments will be heard at this time. The Board of Review will hear appeals on the 2025 assessments on Monday, March 10, 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Tuesday, March 11, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Resident and non-resident property owners may protest by letter if received by 12 pm on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Estimated multipliers for each class of property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural…....1.2900
Commercial…..... 1.0948
Industrial…..1.1171
Residential…....1.0741

The tentative ratio for each class is 50%. The inflation rate multiplier for use in calculating 2025 capped value is 1.031

The Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the Township Clerk. If you require such aids or services and plan to appeal in person, please call the Township.

Shalice Northrop, Howard Township Assessor



Lead Data Scientist

University of Notre Dame du Lac seeks a **Lead Data Scientist** in **Notre Dame, Indiana.**

Duties:

50%

- Lead a team of 2 data scientists as well as 2 limited-term interns in data analysis and modelling by managing staff development time, resources, and assigning tasks.
- Manage day to day operations and performance, develop employees skills, report and track staff performance to the Managing Director.
- Coordinate with stakeholders, customers, project managers to define project scope and proper implementation of requirements.

20%

- Lead overall design of data-driven projects and research that target market needs identified with industry partners. This includes high performance computing systems executing large scale data models and accompanying data visualizations.
- Manage lifecycle of data services determining when best to continue maintenance, decommission, or combine solutions together. Also, coordinate with AETL Managing Director, project managers and stakeholders to define project scope and proper implementation of requirements, priorities, and timelines
- Collaborate with the Managing Director AETL, the Lead Software Solutions Architect, and Lucy Institute faculty on planning efforts around areas such as data integrity, retention policies, data management policies.

20% Analytics: implement methods and models to learn, infer, draw analysis from data; identify patterns across various sources of data; collect data and transfer data into formats to make them appropriate for analysis.

10% Train and mentor other data scientists, interns, and industry partners in development: design, implement, and test various data management features such as data intake, fusion, and processing, implement access control and other security features; develop experimental frameworks to collect and analyze data; create reports and software documentation.

Requirements:

Master's in Computer Science and Engineering, or related. This position also requires:

- 2.5 years of prior employment experience, skills must also include the following:
- 2.5 years of experience using tools including R, SQL, Python and machine learning methods is required
- 2.5 years of experience effectively solving complex analytical problems is required
- 2.5 years of experience working in data science teams in industry or academic is required
- 2.5 years of experience with machine learning is required
- 2 years of experience developing cloud based data analytics technology is required
- 2 years of experience leading and mentoring use of Tableau, PowerBI, and data frameworks is required.

To Apply: Submit letter of application and resume to https://apptrkr.com/6040199

University of Notre Dame du Lac is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Merchandise

Antiques & Collectibles

LOOK!
CJ'S THIS N' THAT FLEA MARKET

"A little bit of everything and a whole lot of deals!"

Antiques, collectibles, new and used merchandise.

Vendor spots available!

6681 US HWY 31,
BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103
OPEN SAT & SUN 10AM-4PM

574-807-5276
269-217-5241

YOHO'S TREASURE MARKET
INDOOR FLEA MARKET
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES FURNITURE AND MORE!

Booths' Available!
Now Renting from $75+!
Yoho's Treasure Market!
1420 S 11th st.
Niles, MI 49120
Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423

Food & Produce

SHOP LOCAL! CHECK OUT THE DEAL WE HAVE HERE!
269-591-6105

Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

Call (269)462-0183

Want to Buy Merchandise

WANTED
STANDING TIMBER
Large Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking land owners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell
Call: (517)566-8061
qualityhardwoodsinc.com

Notices

Community Events

ANTIQUE & ARTISAN SHOW
TRI KAPPA BENEFIT
Orthwein Pavilion
@ RV Hall of Fame
21565 Executive Pkwy,
Elkhart, IN
Saturday, March 15th 9-5
Sunday, March 16th 10-3
$5 for 2-day ticket. Homemade sloppy joes & desserts for sale. Proceeds benefit local charities and fund high school scholarships.

CALL THE CLASSIFIEDS TO GET YOUR ADS STARTED TODAY! IN PRINT AND ON-LINE AVAILABLE!

Community Events

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

duLac@nd.edu

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

Real Estate

Commercial Real Estate

Niles Apartment above Commercial Space

Available Immediately

2 Bed / 1 Bath
Approx 700 sq ft
$700/month

269.782.2123

Rentals

Apartments

STONE LAKE MANOR
Senior Apartments
Seniors 62/yrs or older.
Phone:(269)445-3333
Fax:(269)445-3635
Email:
stonelake@frontier.com
145 Stone Lake St.
EHO, TDD 711

Wanted To Rent

Looking for Large Storage Space in Niles or Buchanan Area. All items are clean, no junk. Call (269)262-0162

Transportation

Boats & Watercraft

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400

2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

Services

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Construction

Michiana Masonry & Construction
All your Masonry needs!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566

Construction

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION

WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE

65280 M-66
STURGIS, MI 49091

SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

Garbage Services

RAY'S HAULING
Clean Ups Only.
Reasonable rates.
Niles • Buchanan
(269)357-6090

Miscellaneous Services

AUCTION
Epic Spring Firearms Auction, 10 a.m., Sat, March 15. Long guns, Handguns, ammo, sporting collectibles, and more! View the catalog and bid at EpicAuctionsAndEstateSales.com. Questions? Call 517-927-5028.

Firearms & more online auction bidding now open through March 18. Rifles, handguns, shotguns, ammo, knives, bows & more. FN Herstal, Beretta, Browning, Weatherby, S&W, Kimber, Remington. Bid at BiditMi.com 313-600-5451.

Weekly Online Auctions at Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Trucks, cars, collectibles, vintage toys, comics, trading cards, knifes, blacksmith tools, Depression glass, antiques & much more! Go online to bid, see catalogs. Questions? Call 1-800-835-0495.

BUILDINGS
POLE BARNS We build ALL year long! BUILT BEST BARNS IN A RUSH? CALL US!!!! Best Quality, Best Service, Now In Our 25TH Year! Over 4,000 Buildings In Michigan Call for QUOTES License/Insured 989-205-2534

BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuilding-smi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010 or 989-324-0035.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made in U.S.A, in plastic, with warranty. Retail Cost $3,995.00 sacrifice for $875.00 Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattress-Man.com. 989-923-1278

MISCELLANEOUS
Amish-built mini-cabins starting at $5,295. Made in Michigan! We deliver statewide. Call 989-832-1866. MyNextBarn.com.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty &

Miscellaneous Services

professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-504-0056

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-324-2582

Omaha Steaks Wines. 12 world class wines (and bonus gifts) for ONLY $79.99 (plus s/h.) Save $160! 12 new wine selections plus a FREE $25 Omaha Steaks E-reward card every three months. Cancel anytime. 100% guarantee! Call 1-833-652-3787 and mention code AGJF002 or visit www.GetOSWine.com/sip134

Looking for a home?

Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

Tree Service

EAGER BEAVER TREE SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
•TOTAL REMOVAL, TRIMMING & LOT CLEARING.
•STUMP GRINDING
• STORM DAMAGE
•SEASONED FIREWOOD
SAME DAY SERVICE, EXCELLENT CLEAN-UP
*60 & 80 FT. BUCKET TRUCK
FULLY INSURED.
PLEASE CALL 574-848-5845.

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

**HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held during a special meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Howard Charter Township, Cass County, Michigan on March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan to consider the application by Joseph R Herbert for a variance request, at the following location, to construct an addition to the home which will cause an infringement into the setback.
Owner of Record: Joseph R Herbert
Parcel Number: 14-020-021-122-00
Parcel Address: 2693 Lakeshore Dr, Niles MI 49120
Parcel Description: 335 SEC 21 T7S R16W COM 883.7 FT W OF S ¼ COR, TH N 10 DEG 05' E 150 FT, E 55.75
FT, S 10 DEG O5' W 150 FT, W 55.75 FT TO BEG
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you are invited to attend the hearing and to present your opinions or position relative to the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or position to: Howard Charter Township, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI 49120, Attn: Zoning Administrator.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the application describing the action or relief being sought and the Township Zoning Ordinance #192 is available for public inspection, at the Township Office on regular business days during regular business hours.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Howard Charter Township Clerk of the need for the same.
Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township by email at depclerk@howardtwp.org , in writing, or by calling the Clerk at the Township office at the address and/or phone number provided below.
Published: 3/8/2025
Linda McGregor
Zoning Administrator

Public Notices

1345 Barron Lake Rd
Niles, Michigan 49120
(269) 684-0072, #3

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
HEARING

Put your ad here
call 269-591-6105.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE
OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION**

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by Berrien County Road Department to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated roadside guardrail locations throughout the county.
In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials: Bayer/Envu Esplanade 200SC (Indaziflam), Bayer/Envu Method 240SL (Aminocyclopyrachlor), Alligare Imazapyr 4SL(Isopropylamine salt) or BASF Arsenal 4#.
Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.
This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of March and/or April.
Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511
WE APPLY EXCELLENCE

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
HERBICIDE APPLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Aloha Storage located at 3001 South 11th Street Niles MI 49120 intends to hold an auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur at the facility on 3/25/2025 at 12:00PM.
Unless otherwise stated in the below list of Unit #'s the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Unit #J20C. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 1 and 8, 2025
L2L- 56877

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF NILES
PUBLIC NOTICE**

"TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS, GRASSES AND UNCULTIVATED VEGETATION BY MAY 1, 2025"

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Ordinance #332, adopted by the Niles City Council, October 14, 1991, all grasses and uncultivated vegetation (except trees, shrubs, bushes, wildflowers, cultivated flowers, ground cover plants, or gardens) exceeding ten (10) inches in height growing on improved property and all noxious weeds, Canada thistle (Circium arvense) or other thistle, dodders (any species of Cuscuta), mustards (charlock, black mustard and Indian mustard, species of Brassica or Sinapis), wild carrot (Daucus carota), bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis), perennial sowthistle (Sonchus arvensis), hoary alyssum (Berteroa incana), ragweed (Ambrosia elatior 1.) and poison ivy (rhus toxicodendron), poison sumac (Toxicodendron vernis) or other plants such as pigweed, duckweed or milkweed which are regarded as a common nuisance or detrimental to the public health and welfare, on property owned or occupied by you must be cut, removed, destroyed or eradicated in a manner permitted by law by **MAY 1, 2025**. Failure to do so, shall cause the City of Niles to have said growths cut, removed, destroyed or eradicated and the cost and expenses incurred shall be charged against the premises as a special assessment.
Copies of said ordinance are available on the city's website at www.nilesmi.org or by calling the
Building Safety Division 269-683-2374 ext. 5050.

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
NOXIOUS WEEDS

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BERRIEN LETTERS OF AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FILE NO 2022-0558-DE-R**

Estate of Nancy Ruth Pelley
To: Dawn Marie Gray 111 W. Roe Street Buchanan, MI 49107
Telephone no. 562-399-6099
You have been appointed and qualified as personal representative of the estate on 6/22/2022. You are authorized to preform all acts authorized by law unless exceptions are specified below.

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
20220558-DE-R

PUBLIC NOTICE

2017 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB7AP4HY349119 will be sold at auction for charges owed $2290 on 3/29/25 at 10am at 52072 IN 933, South Bend, IN 46637.

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
AV/17 NISSAN

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. AND JUDGE
2025-0022-DE-J**

Court address: 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone no. 269-983-7111

Estate of David Alan Toxopeus, aka David A. Toxopeus, aka David Toxopeus
TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, David Alan Toxopeus, aka David A. Toxopeus
died 11/23/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mykal Alan Toxopeus, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
03/03/2025
William M. Engeln P39053
811 Ship St, Ste 301 St. Joseph, MI 49805 269-287-2007

Mykal Alan Toxopeus
1125 Oakdale Avenue
Niles, MI, 49120 269-591-2694

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
EST/TOXOPEUS, D.

LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
NO COURT SUPERVISION
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
CLAIMS NOTICE
THE BEVERLY A. PLEW TRUST, DATED MARCH 1, 2007**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Your interest in the Trust may be barred or affected by the following:
The decedent, Beverly A. Plew, whose last known address was 1760 Howard Street, Niles, Michigan 49120, has died. An instrument dated March 1, 2007 was executed by Beverly A. Plew as her Trust for the distribution of her estate. Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee, Beverly Jean Plew Johnson, Trustee of The Beverly A. Plew Trust Dated March 1, 2007, Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120, within four (4)months of the date of publication of this notice.
No court supervision will be made regarding the administration of this Trust unless an interested person petitions the Berrien County Probate Court, 811 Port Street, Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085 within four (4) months of the date of the publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the Trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled thereto.
The attorney for the Trustee is Robert L. Landgraf, Jr. (P 23000), Post Office Box 1310, Niles, Michigan 49120 - 1310. Tele: (269) 683 - 8300.

BEVERLY JEAN PLEW JOHNSON Trustee of The Beverly A. Plew Trust
Dated March 1, 2007.
Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120 - 1310

Niles Daily Star:
Mar. 8, 2025
EST/PLEW, B.

Looking for a home?

Look in our classifieds section and learn of great deals for you and your family.

inogen
INOGEN® PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS
Call us toll-free at
1-877-460-0206
RISK-FREE TRIAL
30-DAY
RISK-FREE TRIAL
*30-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.
PM230469 EN_EX_USA
Rx Only. © 2024 Inogen, Inc.
859 Ward Drive, Suite 200, Goleta, CA 93111
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

Finally! Satellite Internet With No Hard Data Limits!
And **FREE** Standard Installation![2]
Limited Time Offer. Restrictions may apply.

RANKED #1 BY THE FCC in Delivering Advertised Download Speeds FOUR YEARS IN A ROW[3]

"You can get High-Speed Internet wherever you live!"

Plans starting at $59.99 MO. for 24 Mos.

25 Mbps Download Speed
25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload[1]

No Hard Data Limits

Wi-Fi Built-In
Connect your wireless devices at home

CALL TODAY - LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

1-877-271-3236

HughesNet. AUTHORIZED RETAILER

HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.
1 The HughesNet Gen5 service plans are designed to deliver download speeds of 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps, but individual customers may experience different speeds at different times of the day. Speeds and uninterrupted use are not guaranteed and may vary based on a variety of factors including: the configuration of your computer, the number of concurrent users, network or Internet congestion, the capabilities and content of the Websites you are accessing, network management practices as deemed necessary, and other factors. When you connect to the HughesNet service using Wi-Fi, your experience will vary based on your proximity to the Wi-Fi source and the strength of the signal.
2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

DEALS ON WHEELS

$0 DOWN DELIVERS! ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

2015 CHEVY CRUZ LTZ
Just in!!
Fully serviced with every option
Only $5,900

TOYOTA SIENNA LE
Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great
Only $9,900

2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
Just in!!
Fully serviced and ready to tote your family around
Only $9,900

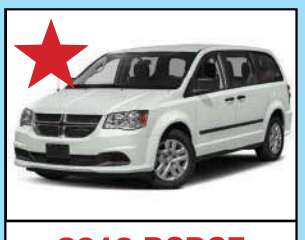
2016 CHEVY SPARK LT
Showroom new with super low miles
Only $9,900

2016 KIA SOUL
Only 62,000 miles, save thousands on this low miler
Only $11,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!!
Only 53,000 miles
Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2015 HONDA CIVIC LX CVT
Automatic with backup camera, cruise control and amazing gas mileage!
Only $13,900



2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum
Only $13,900

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Fully serviced, ready to go
Only $13,900

2018 JEEP COMPASS 4 X 4
Super clean widda price that's lean
Only $14,777

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4
Just in!!
These sell fast…
Only $19,900

2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY
Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver
Only $19,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER
Like new with full power options
Only $21,900

2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Off lease, one owner, super low miles, 7 passenger with every option
Only $22,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item
Only $24,900

2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4
GO ELECTRIC
Only $25,900

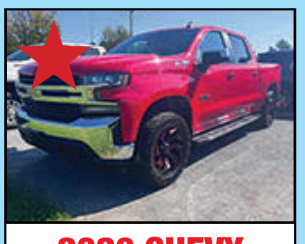
2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 LINCOLN AVIATOR AWD
Every option!! Mint condition
Only $29,900

2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON
Lifted and gifted with every option and 37" INCH TIRES!
Only $33,900

2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition with every option & super low miles
Only $34,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE, one owner with EVERY option
Only 13,000 miles
Only $43,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only $49,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC